Daily number of Americans getting first inoculations falls to 90,000. **News, Page 4**

Warming will fuel fires

U.N. report: Wildfires globally will increase, become more dangerous. **News, Page 8**

Huskies clinch title

UConn women defeat Marquette to win Big East regular-season title. **Sports, Page 1**

Much cooler



Partly sunny in the afternoon; high of 35. **Sports, Page 6**



VOLUME CLXXXVI COURANT.COM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022

CRISIS IN UKRAINE

Putin orders military operation

Pelosi: US will stand with allies

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said at a news conference Wednesday that continued Russian aggression toward Ukraine is "an attack on democracy," vowing that the United States will stand firm with its allies around the world in swiftly imposing sanctions on Russia and ensuring financial and political support for an independent Ukraine. News, Page 4 Zelenskyy issues plea to nation in bid to fend off invasion as Russia warns others of interfering

By Dasha Litvinova, Yuras Karmanau and Jim Heintz Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian President Vladimir Putin early Thursday announced a military operation in Ukraine, claiming it's intended to protect civilians.

In a televised address, Putin said the action comes in response to threats coming from Ukraine. He added that Russia doesn't have a goal to occupy Ukraine. Putin said the responsibility for bloodshed lies with the Ukrainian "regime."

Putin warned other countries that any attempt to interfere with the Russian action would lead to "consequences they have never seen."

He accused the U.S. and its allies of ignoring Russia's demand to prevent Ukraine from joining NATO and offer Moscow security

Turn to Ukraine, Page 3



A woman crosses into Ukrainian-held territory Wednesday from a separatist region recognized by Russia as independent. **THE NEW YORK TIMES**



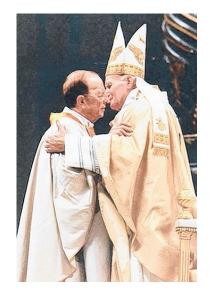
25 years after allegations of sex abuse came to light, Legion of Christ victims are still seeking reparations from the religious order that was based in Connecticut

By Nicole Winfield Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — The Hartford Courant exposed one of the Catholic Church's biggest sexual abuse scandals by reporting 25 years ago Wednesday that eight men had accused the revered founder of the Legion of Christ religious order of raping and molesting them when they were boys preparing for the priesthood.

It took a decade for the Vatican to sanction the founder, the Rev. Marcial Maciel, and another decade for the Legion to admit he was a serial pedophile who had violated at least 60 boys. In the meantime, the original whistleblowers suffered a defamation campaign by the Legion, which branded them liars bent on creating a conspiracy to hurt a man considered aliving saint.

As they marked the quarter-century anniversary of revelations that tarnished the legacy of St. John Paul II, three of Maciel's victims are still seeking reparations from the Legion to compensate for



ABOVE: The late Mexican priest and serial pedophile Marcial Maciel is embraced by Pope John Paul II in 1991. TOP: Jose Barba, one of Maciel's victims, is asking for reparations. NEWS SERVICE PHOTOS the abuse they suffered and the "moral" harm done to their reputations by the

They had refused earlier compensation offers that their fellow survivors accepted, and a mediation process begun in 2019 has stalled, according to emails and docu-

ments provided to Associated Press.

The Vatican in 2010 took over the Mexico-based Legion and imposed a process of reform after an investigation showed that Maciel had sexually abused seminarians and fathered at least three children with two women. The Vatican found he had created a system of power built on silence, deceit and obedience that enabled him lead a double life.

The findings were by no means news to the Holy See: Documents from Vatican archives show how a succession of popes, cardinals and bishops starting in the 1950s simply turned a blind eye to credible reports that Maciel was a con artist, drug addict, pedophile and religious fraud. The Vatican and especially

Turn to Justice, Page 2

GENERAL ASSEMBLYAID-IN-DYING BILL

Hearing turns deeply personal

Kin of terminally ill plea with lawmakers to grant right to die

By Daniela Altimari Hartford Courant

Minnie Stein Wilkov was a lifelong political junkie and a passionate supporter of legislation allowing terminally ill patients to receive a physician's help in ending their lives.

help in ending their lives.

But it wasn't until her own terminal diagnosis that she became a voice for the cause. Before she died of ovarian cancer in July 2019 at age 97, she dictated a letter to her daughter expressing her support for the concept of aid

"Despite all the painkillers and anti-nausea medicines, and even though I am surrounded by all the love and care I could wish for, I am leaving this world in a torturous and miserable way that I would not wish on any caring human being," Wilkov wrote. "Please pass the death with dignity legislation here in Connecticut.

... To deny people this choice is inhumane."

Wilkov's posthumous plea was read by her daughter Barbara Wilkov during Wednesday's public hearing on a bill that would give terminally ill patients the legal right to obtain a prescription for a lethal dose of medication to end their lives. It was one of many harrowing stories presented by supporters of the legislation.

Tyrone G. Biniarz, of Ellington, recalled watching his younger brother Clifford "slide into death" after being diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. The strong painkillers

Turn to Hearing, Page 3

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Legislators explore statewide property tax on mansions

By Christopher Keating Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — With the state projecting a surplus of \$1.5 billion in the current fiscal year, Gov. Ned Lamont and some legislators have been pushing repeatedly to avoid any tax increases during an election year.

But the tax-writing finance committee voted Wednesday to hold a public hearing on creating a new statewide property tax on mansions with a market value of more than \$1.8 million. The annual tax would be two mills, and the money would be used to help fund the Sheff vs. O'Neill education desegregation settlement and

special education costs for the towns.

But some moderate Democrats, such as Rep. Stephen Meskers of Greenwich and Chris Ziogas of Bristol, voted against the idea. The additional property tax would have a major impact in Greenwich, where the median sales price in 2021 was \$2.3 million. The average

price was more than \$3 million as it was boosted by the sale of highend mansions, according to local real estate statistics.

Rep. Sean Scanlon, a Guilford Democrat who co-chairs the committee, told colleagues that they were taking "not a vote for or against the concept. It is for or against having a hearing on it." But Rep. Holly Cheeseman, the ranking House Republican, said the prospects are dim because Lamont, a longtime Greenwich resident, had opposed a similar version last year.

"This is not going anywhere," Cheeseman said before voting

Turn to Tax, Page 3

Blumenthal says \$200M needed for pediatric training

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal on Wednesday urged a \$200 million investment in pediatric education this year and highlighted funding disparities in training. **Connecticut, Page 1**

Puzzles ... Connecticut, 7,9 Comics ... Connecticut, 8-9 Hartford Courant



FROM PAGE ONE

Justice

from Page 1

John Paul, however, appreciated his ability to bring in vocations and donations.

The reality of Maciel's depravity burst into the public domain Feb. 23, 1997, when The Hartford Courant published a lengthy expose by investigative journalists Jason Berry and the late Gerald Renner about Maciel and the order, whose U.S. headquarters were based in Connecticut.

The story, which formed the basis of a 2004 book "Vows of Silence," quoted several victims by name who independently reported that Maciel would bring them into his bedroom at night, and under the pretense of abdominal pain, induce them to masturbate him.

When The Courant ran the long investigative piece Renner and I did on Maciel, we thought Pope John Paul II would see the light and punish Maciel," Berry told the AP in an email. He noted that other mainstream media only began reporting on clergy sexual abuse after the Boston Globe's "Spotlight" revelations in 2002. "By then, John Paul's blind faith in Maciel was a cover-up by any other term, and lasted till his death."

A year after the original Courant story, in 1998, the victims filed a formal canonical complaint against Maciel with the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, where the case languished until after John Paul died. Maciel was sentenced in 2006 to a lifetime of "penance and prayer," and he died in 2008, still considered a saint by the Legion.

Following the Vatican-mandated reform process, the Legion apologized and tried to make amends, even as it has been forced to confront revelations of a new generation of abusers within its ranks some of them Maciel's original victims — and the superiors who covered up for the crimes, some of



Jose Barba, one of the victims of the Legion of Christ sex scandal, stands in front of monument to Alvaro Obregon, the 46th president of Mexico, in Mexico City on Tuesday. MARCO UGARTE/AP

whom remain in power.

In 2020, the Legion publicly retracted the "negative institutional and personal judgments about the character and motivations of the people who made legitimate and necessary accusations" in the original Courant expose. Naming the original victims, it said "Today we recognize as prophetic their accusations in favor of truth and

But Jose Barba, one of the most vocal of the original eight survivors, wants the Legion to formally retract what he calls the "lies" the order provided to the Courant to discredit him and the other victims. They include what he says were a falsified letter from a Chilean bishop who had investigated Maciel in the 1950s, and false statements from four Mexicans who claimed the victims had tried to enlist them in a conspiracy against Maciel.

Barba, who says he represents fellow survivors Arturo Jurado and Jose Antonio Perez Olvera, drafted a proposed letter to the Courant and the Vatican newspaper that he wanted the Legion to submit to retract the claims. But then Legion superior, the Rev. Eduardo Robles-Gil, refused during a December 2019 mediation meeting in Mexico City, Barba said.

In a Jan. 4, 2020, summary of that meeting, Barba said the Legion's initial calculus of a low five-figure settlement offer for each of the three remaining victims was a "humiliation," and he proposed a team of five arbitration experts to determine a more "just" reparation.

Robles-Gil signed the summary but wrote: "I receive this without accepting the process that is asked for and it remains at our consideration to accept it or not." The Legion's new supe-

rior, the Rev. John Connor, tried unsuccessfully to engage with Barba after his February 2020 election, sending two letters that went unanswered until Barba emailed him on Jan. 5, 2021, seeking to restart negotiations.

Connor assured him he wanted to "find ways to contribute to heal and close the painful events of the history of our congregation." But in an email, Connor said Barba's

proposal for five arbitration experts wouldn't help "in finding a shared resolution."

Barba never replied. "I don't trust them because it's not in good faith," he told the AP.

In a statement to the AP, Legion spokesman the Rev. Aaron Smith noted that the order had reached settlements with most of the historic victims and hoped for a resolution with the remaining ones.

"We are sad that meeting still has not happened, especially considering the positive experience of the encounters with other victims of Fr. Maciel," Smith said in a statement. "We continue to remain hopeful it will take place in the near future permitting open dialogue with him."

Barba, meanwhile, says

he is getting old and his two confreres are ailing. While they are hailed by ex-Legionaries as "los 8 Magnificos" (the Magnificent Eight) for having stood up to Maciel and the order, Barba recalls a Nov. 8, 1997, letter he and the others wrote to John Paul, translated into Polish, asking for the pope to hear their pain and do something.

"It appears inconceivable to us, Holy Father, that our grave revelations and complaints mattered absolutely nothing to you," they wrote, according to a copy of the letter provided to the AP. "We want the church and society to understand that all we want is justice: not only for legitimate personal vindication, but for the good of the church and society."

Hartford Courant

A TRIBUNE PUBLISHING COMPANY

NEWS EXECUTIVE Executive Editor

BUSINESS EXECUTIVES

Mary Lou Stoneburner

Vice President, Advertising Dana S. Bisconti

> Rrian W. McEnery Director, Distribution

HOW TO REACH US

The Hartford Courant and www.courant.com P.O. Box 569, Hartford, CT 06141-0569 860-241-6200 (Local calling area)

800-524-4242 (Outside the Hartford area) Our Circulation Customer Service is open Monday through Friday

from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 12:00 p.m

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY 860-525-555

Subscriptions, missed delivery or missing sections, vacation stops, billing questions. For same-day redelivery, please call before 10 $\,$ a.m. daily. 11:30 a.m. Sunday. All numbers are 860 area code unless

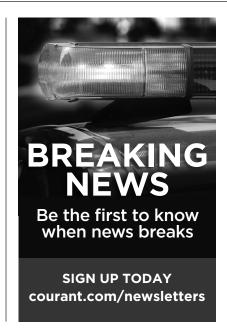
ADVERTISING 241-6221 525-2525 Classified 800-842-8824 classified@courant.com Death notices/Obituaries 241-6392 **SPORTS**

241-6435 EDITORIAL PAGE/LETTERS 241-6595 NEWS ACCURACY AND FAIRNESS CONCERNS E-mail 241-3902

The Hartford Courant proudly participates in a comprehensive recycling program to help protect the earth's environment. You can join us by recycling this newspaper Published daily and Sunday by The Hartford Courant Company (ISSN 1047-4153). Periodicals postage paid at Hartford, CT. Postmaster send address changes to: The Hartford Courant, P.O. Box 569, Hartford, CT 06141-0569. Home delivery rates: Daily and Sunday (7 days), \$17.99; *Thursday through Sunday (4 days) \$13.99; *Thursday, Friday and Sunday (3 days) \$12.50; Thursday and Sunday (2 days) \$10.50: Sunday-only service \$8.99 includes the Thanksgiving paper; Sunday through Friday (6 days) \$12.25; Monday through Friday (5 days) \$12.50; Monday through Saturday (6 days) \$11.58.All subscriptions may include up to 12 premium issues per year. For each premium issue, your account balance will be charged an additional fee up to \$5.99 in the billing period when the section publishes. This will result in shortening the length of your billing period. Premium issues scheduled to date: 1/10/21, 2/14/21, 3/28/21, 4/18/21, 5/16/21, 6/13/21, 7/11/21, 8/8/21, 9/5/21, 10/10/21, 11/21/21, 12/19/21. Dates are subject to change without notice. *Service not available in all areas. Rates may vary based on subscription length. Vacation stops do not extend expiration dates. We may increase home delivery rates with 15 days notice. The Hartford Courant reserves the right to revise or reject any advertisement. Only publication of the advertisement shall constitute acceptance of the advertisement. The Hartford Courant shall not be responsible for the omission, in whole or in part, of any advertisement or for any typographical or other error. The Hartford Courant's liability shall be limited to the amount paid by the advertiser for the first insertion only. In no event shall The Hartford Courant be liable for consequential damages of any kind

Play online every day at

PlayJumble.com



ole Daily | Jumble Crossword Daily | Jumble Sunday ku | Mahjong | Bubble Shooter Pro | Plus many more

TRIBUNE

LOTTERY

Wednesday, Feb. 23

PLAY3 DAY PLAY4 DAY 4 4 5 2 WB: 2 132 ws: 5

The late lotto numbers were not arawn in time for this edition. Foi results, please visit courant.com/

lottery. **TUESDAY'S LATE NUMBERS** PLAY3 NIGHT

0 7 8 ws: 5 **PLAY4 NIGHT** 2 2 8 8 ws: 6 CASH 5 4 16 20 25 34 **LUCKY FOR LIFE** 7 23 24 28 48 LB: 15

LOTTO

2 5 17 22 35 39 MEGA MILLIONS 6 17 22 57 62 MB: 3 MP: 3



2/25 John McEuen and the Circle Band

Sharing music and memories of Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and landmark Will the Circle Be Unbroken album plus an incredible 50-year career.

2/26 Frames in Film: Secret Impressionist

The story of the art revolution at the core of the impressionist movement, through an exploration of fifty legendary paintings.

2/26 The Longest Johns

A Bristol based, a capella folk music band, born out of a mutual love of traditional folk songs and shanties.

2/21 The Slambovian Circus of Dreams

Their melodic avant-folk conjures a quirkier Tom Petty or fuller Buffalo Tom with an exotic instrumental arsenal. If you like Dylan, Bowie, The Decemberists, you'll find a lot to love about this bage

3/1 Talisk

Talisk ranks highly amongst the most in-de-mand folk-based groups to emerge from Scotland in the last decade and more.

3/2 Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives

This Grammy-winning singer, songwriter and musician is living, breathing country-music history.

3/3 The Irish Comedy Tour

The Irish Comedy Tour takes the party atmosphere of a Dublin pub and combines it with a boisterous, belly-laugh band of hooligans.

3/4 Eileen Ivers

Continuing to push the fiddling tradition boundaries from a folk music staple to a fiercely fresh, powerfully driving world stage experience.

3/6 The Celtic Tenors

A professional, sparkling and most of all, good humoured performance of thier own renditions of beautiful Celtic songs.















your online access! **Visit:**

TRIBUNE

FROM PAGE ONE

Hearing

from Page 1

his brother had relied on were no longer effective.

"To see him go through that was difficult," Biniarz told members of the legislature's public health committee. "I know there are people like myself who are talking on behalf of people who died, but as a citizen of Connecticut I want this option for myself."

Senate Bill 88 would allow mentally competent patients with less than six months to live to obtain a prescription from a doctor for a lethal dose of medication. Nine states along with the District of Columbia have passed similar laws. The concept has been raised in Connecticut at least 14 times since 1994. Last year was the first time the bill was approved by legislative committee, but it died before coming up for a full vote in either the House or the Senate. The bill's supporters say this year they will again bring it up for a committee vote.

Supporters of the legislation say providing terminally ill patients with a medical means to end their suffering provides enormous comfort, even though studies show most people who qualify under the bill do not pursue aid in dying.

But critics of the measure say it could be used to target

vulnerable people such as those with disabilities and the elderly. They also point out that medical experts can't always determine exactly when a terminally ill person will die. Instead of approving aid in dying, they said, the state ought to provide more resources for palliative and hospice care.

"All of us have likely had someone close to us who would qualify for aid in dying under this bill," said Rep Mark Anderson, a Republican from Granby. He invoked the experience of his wife of 24 years, who was diagnosed with stagefour stomach cancer and given three months to live. "Thanks to a great physician at Dana Farber and aggressive treatment she lived for three years," Anderson said.

Before her death in 2012, there was "precious family times with our two sons as well as marital reconciliation," he said. "This was priceless. A doctor does not know when someone has less than six months to live. It is a guess."

Others object to the bill on philosophical grounds, saying its very existence devalues life.

Mark Desrosiers, of Columbia, said it was wrenching watching his father succumb to illness. But neither his father nor his family thought of ending

"While it was painful

to watch him slowly die, we realized what a natural process it was," Desrosiers said. "When the discomfort became unbearable, we decided to use pain medications to ameliorate his suffering while allowing the terminal illness to run its course. We, this includes my dad, never thought of killing

The public hearing also brought testimony from medical experts, lawyers and members of the clergy, both in support and in opposition.

But ultimately it was the steady drum beat of deeply personal experiences from those on both sides of the issue that left a powerful impact on the lawmakers who will decide the fate of the bill.

"A thread that I've noticed in common is that many folks are testifying after their loved ones have passed not having this option," said Rep. Jaime Foster, a Democrat from Ellington.

Foster said she has heard from residents who were disappointed the measure didn't pass last year.

"I have one constituent in particular whose mother passed, and he told me, 'You failed my mom and she suffered because the political will was lacking.' His experience was so painful for me to hear and I can't even imagine for him to experience."

Tax

from Page 1

against the hearing. Lamont's chief spokes-

man, Max Reiss, said that Lamont has been promoting tax cuts, not tax increases.

"Thanks to our third consecutive year of budget surpluses, Gov. Lamont is focused on providing responsible tax relief to Connecticut families," Reiss said. "However, his administration is reviewing the proposal, as we do with all legislation.'

The bill \bar{l} is being pushed by Senate President Pro Tem Martin Looney, a liberal Democrat who is one of the most influential legislators and a key player in negotiating the state budget with Lamont. He says officials need to look at taxes on a statewide basis and not strictly on a townby-town basis.

The tax would apply annually to homes with a market value of more than \$1.8 million, meaning an assessed value of \$1.2 million as the assessment is 70% of the market value. The tax could raise as much as \$86 million per year.

"We have to look at other options to the tax structure that we have now," Looney said in an interview. "The thing about the property tax is — the positive is it's

reliable and collectible. The negative is it tends to be regressive."

The measure, which passed by 32 to 18, now goes to a public hearing in the coming weeks. The committee's deadline for voting on the bill is April 7, and lawmakers intend to vote on Lamont's entire \$24.2 billion budget before the legislative session ends on May 4.

Lamont has proposed a \$336 million package that would reduce taxes on residential real estate and cars. Within income limits, the property tax credit would be restored to all residential property owners. Currently, the credit is limited only to those with dependents and those over the age of 65.

Under Lamont's plan, an additional 500,000 people would become eligible for the property tax credit for the 2022 calendar year and they would receive the credit when they file their state income taxes in April 2023. The property tax portion of the plan would save taxpayers a combined \$53 million, and the credit would be limited to single filers earning up to \$109,500 and joint filers earning up to \$130,500.

The governor's budget office estimates the current surplus at \$1.5 billion, which represents 7.3% of the general fund budget. The projected surplus for the once-troubled Special Transportation Fund is now \$275 million in the current fiscal year. In addition, the state's rainy day fund for fiscal emergencies is expected to grow to \$5.6 billion later this year if fiscal trends continue. That total would be reduced when money is taken out to pay off long-term pension

debt. The tax committee also voted Wednesday to hold a hearing for a personal income tax deduction for the first time for installing residential charging stations for electric cars. The deduction would be a maximum of \$2,500. The measure was introduced by Rep. Lucy Dathan, a Democrat who represents New Canaan and Norwalk.

But Rep. Devin Carney, a Republican from Old Lyme, questioned "why we would give a tax credit for something that very few can afford."

Some electric cars have been highly expensive in recent years, but advocates say that the prices will eventually come down as battery technology improves, production increases, and the cars become more common-

Christopher Keating can be reached at ckeating@ courant.com

Ukraine

from Page 1

He said the Russian military operation aims to ensure a "demilitarization" of Ukraine.

Putin said that all Ukrainian servicemen who lay down arms will be able to safely leave the zone of combat.

There was no immediate reaction from the White House to Putin's remarks, but U.S. officials have repeatedly pledged to place overwhelming sanctions on the Russian economy and Putin allies in retaliation for a further invasion of Ukraine.

On Wednesday, the Kremlin said rebels in eastern Ukraine asked Russia for military assistance to help fend off Ukrainian "aggression," an announcement that immediately fueled fears that Moscow was offering up a pretext for war, just as the West had warned about.

A short time later, the Ukrainian president rejected Moscow's claims that his country poses a threat to Russia and warned that a Russian invasion would cost tens of thousands of lives.

"The people of Ukraine and the government of Ukraine want peace," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in an overnight address to his nation in Russian. "But if we come under attack, if we face an attempt to take away our country, our freedom, our lives and lives of our children, we will defend ourselves. When you attack us, you will see our faces, not our backs."

Zelenskyy said he asked to arrange a call with Putin late Wednesday, but the Kremlin

didn't respond. In an apparent reference to Putin's move to sanction the deployment of the Russian military to "maintain peace" in eastern Ukraine, Zelenskyy warned that "this step could mark the start of a big war on the European continent."

"Any provocation, any spark could trigger a blaze that will destroy everything," he said.

The U.N. Security Council scheduled an emergency meeting Wednesday night at



A man carries items from a house damaged Wednesday by artillery shelling in eastern Ukraine. EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP

Ukraine's request.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba called the separatists' request "a further escalation of the security situation."

Anxiety about an imminent Russian offensive against its neighbor soared after Putin recognized the separatist regions' independence on Monday, sanctioned the deployment of troops to the rebel territories to help "maintain peace" and received parliamentary approval to use military force outside the country. The West responded with sanctions.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the rebel chiefs wrote to Putin on Wednesday, pleading with him to intervene after Ukrainian shelling caused civilian deaths and crippled vital infrastructure.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the separatists' request for Russian help was an example of the sort of "false-flag" operation that the U.S. and its allies have expected Moscow to use as a pretense for war.

Earlier Wednesday, Ukrainian lawmakers approved a decree that imposes a nationwide state of emergency for 30 days starting Thursday. The measure allows authorities to impose curfews and restrictions on movement, block rallies and ban political parties and organizations "in the interests of national security and public order."

The action reflected the increasing concern by Ukrainian authorities after weeks of trying to project calm. The Foreign Ministry advised against travel to Russia and recommended any Ukrainians there to leave immediately.

Russia on Wednesday evacuated its embassy in Kyiv as hopes for a diplomatic way out of a new, potentially devastating war in Europe waned.

"For a long time we refrained from declaring a state of emergency ... but today the situation has become more complicated," National Security and Defense Council head Oleksiy Danilov told the parliament, emphasizing that Moscow's efforts to destabilize Ukraine represented the main threat.

Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said the Russian force of more than 150,000 troops arrayed along Ukraine's borders is in an advanced state of readiness. "They are ready to go right now," Kirby said.

The latest images released by the Maxar satellite image company show Russian troops and military equipment deployed within 10 miles of the Ukrainian border and less than 50 miles from Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv.

In response to Russia's action, President Joe Biden allowed sanctions to move forward against the company that built the Russia-to-Germany Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline.



Thanks to You We Were Named the 2022 Best Small Bank in CT by Newsweek!



WORLD NATION

WWW.COURANT.COM

US vaccination drive bottoming out

Unvaccinated see little reason to get a shot as cases fall

By Jay Reeves and Mike Stobbe **Associated Press**

HAMILTON, Ala. -Ahandwritten log kept by nurses tells the story of the losing battle to get more people vaccinated against COVID-19 in this corner of Alabama: Just 14 people showed up at the Marion County Health Department for their initial shot during the first six weeks of the year.

That was true even as hospitals in and around the county of roughly 30,000 people filled with virus patients and the death toll climbed.

On many days, no one got a first shot at all.

The vaccination drive in the country is grinding to a halt, and demand has all but collapsed in places like this deeply conservative manufacturing town where many weren't interested in the shots to begin with.

The average number of Americans getting their first shot is down to about 90,000 a day, the lowest point since the first few days of the U.S. vaccination campaign, in December 2020.

About 76% of the U.S. population has received at least one shot. Less than 65% of all Americans are fully vaccinated.

Vaccination incentive programs that gave away cash, sports tickets, beer and other prizes have largely gone away. Government and employer vaccine mandates have faced court challenges and may have gone as far as they ever will.



Less than 65% of Americans are fully vaccinated. Above, a man at a mobile vaccine clinic in New York. MARY ALTAFFER/AP 2021

And with COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths subsiding across the country, people who are against getting vaccinated don't see much reason to change their minds.

"People are just over it. They're tired of it," said Judy Smith, administrator for a 12-county public health district in northwestern Alabama.

The bottoming-out of demand for the first round of vaccinations is especially evident in conservative areas around the country.

On most days in Idaho, the number of people statewide getting their first shot rarely surpasses 500.

In Wyoming, about 280 people statewide got their first shot in the past week, and the waiting area at the Chevenne-Laramie County Health Department stood empty Tuesday morning.

"People heard more stories about, well, the omicron's not that bad," **Executive Director Kathy** Emmons said. "I think a lot of people just kind of rolled the dice and decided, 'Well, if it's not that bad, I'm just going to kind of wait it out and see what happens."

Marion County, along the Mississippi line, is part of a band of Alabama counties where most people aren't fully vaccinated more than a year after shots were rolled

Just to the east, Winston County has the state's lowest share of fully vaccinated residents, at 26%, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 42% are fully immunized in Marion County.

The area went heavily for President Donald Trump in the 2020 election. And yet resistance to the vaccine is so strong that two counties over, in Cullman, some booed Trump when he encouraged vaccinations during a rally that drew thousands last summer.

COVID-19 has killed almost 18,000 people in Alabama, giving the state the nation's fourth-highest rate of deaths relative to population. Marion County's rate exceeds the state average at 1.78%, with more than 140 deaths, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

Health officials expected to have a hard time persuading Black people to get government-sponsored vaccines in Alabama, home of the infamous Tuskegee syphilis study and a place where distrust of Washington runs deep. They started work on public education campaigns weeks early in mostly Black areas, which now have some of the state's highest vaccination rates, at 60% or more.

But they didn't expect the stiff resistance among rural whites that has kept vaccination numbers stubbornly low in places like Marion County, which is 94% white. While rural transportation difficulties, confusion over vaccine costs

– they're free – and a lack of health care access have also been factors, the partisan divide in America killed the vaccine drive for some before it really got started, officials said.

"Rural white men who identify as conservative are just not interested in this. That caught us off guard," said Dr. Scott Harris, head of the Alabama Department of Public Health. "By the first or second month of the vaccine campaign, it became clear that those folks just weren't going to come in." Richard Kitchens is

among that group.

The owner of a clothing and sports shoe shop on the square in Hamilton, Kitchens said he isn't interested in the vaccine after getting COVID-19 in 2020 before vaccines were available and having relatives who contracted the illness, developed only minor symptoms and recovered.

Short of a proven guarantee against illness — which no vaccine provides — he doesn't see the point.

"I guess if I knew I could go out and get a shot and wouldn't get it or spread it, I would go get it, and they say it helps," Kitchens said. "But I think that will be determined sometime down the road maybe."

Doris Peterson is fully vaccinated, but she said she didn't get a booster on the advice of her two adult daughters, neither of whom is vaccinated.

Peterson said she is used to being one of the few people around still wearing a mask in public.

"Most of the time I am it," she said.

Pelosi calls Putin's action an 'attack on democracy'

Promises US, allies will stand united in support of Ukraine

By Lisa Mascaro **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON - House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Wednesday that Russian aggression toward Ukraine is "an attack on democracy," vowing that the U.S. will stand united with its allies around the world in swiftly imposing sanctions on Russia and ensuring financial and political support for

an independent Ukraine. Pelosi, who returned to the Capitol from a diplomatic overseas trip, compared the aggression to Russia's intervention in the United States' own democratic process during the 2016 election.

"There will be a price to pay for Vladimir Putin," she said, flanked by lawmakers who had joined her delegation at the annual security conference in Munich.

Pelosi, D-Calif., said the Russian president is one of the richest men in the world and warned that the sanctions being imposed by the U.S. and its allies are only the start of what is possible to inflict financial pain on his regime.

"We're doing this together," she said.

For now, Congress is largely backing President Joe Biden's decision to slap sanctions on Russia, a rare but fragile bipartisan response to the most daunting foreign policy crisis the nation has faced in a gener-

But the next steps remain volatile.

With isolationist impulses rising at home, Congress has no appetite for war.

And Republican critics of the Biden administration and even some Democrats want the White House to go even tougher with swifter and more severe sanctions

Republican leaders have sought to steer the conversation to their preferred terms, as the party whose defense hawks once led the nation on the national security front.

But it's not at all clear whether today's GOP can keep Republicans from tapping into an impassioned non-interventionist strain unleashed by Donald Trump's "America First" approach.

It was Trump who sought to strip protections for Ukraine from the Republican Party platform for the 2016 election, and who was impeached by the House for abuse of power after he pressured the Ukrainian president to dig up dirt on Biden during the 2016 campaign.

This week, Trump cheered on Putin as he massed military forces near Ukraine's border and recognized the independence of its separatist regions in a move Biden and others warned is the start of an invasion of Ukraine.

In an interview published Tuesday with "The Clay Travis & Buck Sexton Show," Trump called Putin's recognition Monday of two enclaves in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine as independent breakaway republics "genius," adding that Putin is "very savvy."

In a separate statement Tuesday, following Biden's announcement of the first tranche of sanctions, Trump claimed such events would never have occurred during his presidency.

On Wednesday, the former president offered pointed criticism of Biden, saying in a statement that Putin is "playing" him "like a drum.

"It is not a pretty thing to watch!" Trump said.

Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., who was voted out of GOP leadership for opposing Trump and whose primary



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, center, said sanctions imposed by the U.S. and its allies are only the start of what's possible to inflict financial pain on Vladimir Putin. J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

opponent is backed by Trump and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said Trump's "adulation" of Putin "aids our enemies.'

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, a longtime champion of NATO, spoke highly of the Western alliance this week, but some within his party are gravitating away from that traditional Republican position and toward Trump's views.

McConnell, R-Ky., said he wants to see Biden impose the "toughest possible sanctions."

Still, most Republican senators are backing Biden's sanctions on Putin, even if some are clamoring for

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a sometimes Trump ally who is also one of the party's leading defense hawks, used to travel widely with fellow GOP Sen. John McCain and invoked his late colleague this week in urging Biden to confront Putin more forcefully.

Graham said Congress should impose "sanctions from hell" on Putin and his regime when lawmakers return to work next week. Pelosi said Russians need to understand what their leader is doing.

"It's stunning to see in this day and age, a tyrant roll into a country," Pelosi said.

The Senate has bipartisan support for a robust sanctions package but after running into differences over the scope and timing of the response decided to shelve a vote as the White House pursued its own strategy.

Los Angeles Times contributed.

US pregnancy-related deaths rose in pandemic's first year, report says

By Lindsey Tanner Associated Press

Pregnancy-related deaths for U.S. mothers climbed higher in the pandemic's first year, continuing a decadeslong trend that disproportionately affects Black people, according to a government report released Wednesday.

Overall in 2020, there were almost 24 deaths per 100,000 births, or 861 deaths total — numbers that reflect mothers dying during preg-

nancy, childbirth or the year after. The rate was 20 per 100,000 in 2019.

Among Black people, there were 55 maternal deaths per 100,000 births almost triple the rate for whites.

The report from the National Center for Health Statistics does not include reasons for the trend and researchers said they have not fully examined how COVID-19. which increases risks for severe illness in pregnancy, might have

contributed.

The coronavirus could have had an indirect effect.

Many people put off medical care early in the pandemic for fear of catching the virus, and viral surges strained the health care system, which could have an impact on pregnancy-related deaths, said Eugene Declercq, a professor and maternal death researcher at Boston University School of Public Health.

He called the high rates "terrible news" and noted

that the U.S. has continually fared worse in maternal mortality than many other developed countries.

Pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 births climbed from 44 in 2019 to 55 in 2020 among Black people and from 13 to 18 among Hispanics. The 2020 rate among whites, 19 per 100,000 births, was essentially unchanged.

Reasons for those disparities are not included in the data. But experts have blamed many factors, including differences in rates of underlying health conditions, poor access to quality health care and structural racism.

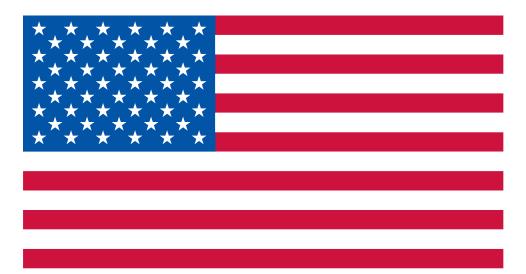
"This is incredibly sad news and especially scary for Black women," said Dr. Laura Riley, OB-GYN chief at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York.

Dr. Janelle Bolden, an assistant OB-GYN professor at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, said the report is not surprising.

"The pandemic has uncovered the disparities in access to care, health care quality and delivery. It has also laid bare the lack of support for public health and social agencies that many people rely on for basic needs," Bolden said.

The U.S. maternal mortality rate has more than tripled in 35 years. It has climbed along with rising rates of obesity, heart disease and cesarean sections, which all increase risks for people giving birth.

Mr. President, We're United Together



In The Fight Against Cancer.

The American Cancer Society and the American **Cancer Society Cancer Action Network stand** ready to work with you and Congress to end cancer as we know it.

Individuals with cancer and their families can't wait. It's time to turn our collective goal into action. The American Cancer Society is dedicated to improving the lives of cancer patients and their families. Our commitment to work alongside President Biden is backed up by more than a century of impact. The American Cancer Society has provided more than \$3.1 billion in cancer research funding since 1991 and works in over 5,000 communities in the nation each year, and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network advocates for critical cancer public policies at all levels of government. Significant investment in research, advocacy, and direct patient support has driven declines in cancer death rates to date.

The federal government also plays a critical role in our ability as a nation to accelerate the fight and save more lives from cancer. So, let's meet the moment together by getting cancer early detection back on track for the more than 9 million people who have missed their critical screenings due to COVID, and ensuring robust federal funding for cancer research to promote discovery.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network calls on Representative DeLauro to work with colleagues in Congress to finish the FY22 Appropriations process, including increased funding for CDC, NIH, NCI, and investment to launch the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H).

On behalf of all cancer patients and their families, let's get to work together to end cancer as we know it.







Attract 'perfect-fit' talent.

Be a Top Workplace. courant.com/nominate



NEWS BRIEFING

Trial underway for ex-officer charged in Breonna Taylor raid

From news services

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Nearly two years after Breonna Taylor was killed by police, the only Kentucky officer charged criminally in the botched raid went on trial Wednesday for shooting bullets that penetrated Taylor's neighbors' apartment

Brett Hankison, now a former officer, fired 10 shots, none of which hit the Black woman, but prosecutors said they endangered the couple and child who lived next door.

He faces up to five years in prison if convicted of three counts of wanton endangerment

Assistant Kentucky Attorney General Barbara Maines Whaley told jurors the case is not about the killing of Taylor. Nor, she said, is it about police decisions that led to the raid. She said the charges are focused on Hankinson's decision to fire blindly through Taylor's apartment, endangering her neighbors.

Before Taylor's front door was breached, Hankison escalated the situation by yelling at a neighbor to go back inside, she said. And once the shooting started, "He's shooting in a different direction than the other two detectives," she said.

Defense attorney Stewart Mathews countered that Hankison's shooting was justified during a chaotic scene lasting just 10 to 15 seconds from when Taylor's door was breached to when the shooting stopped.

"This case is not about the death of Breonna Taylor, but in a sense it's totally about that, because that's what started this whole situation," Mathews said. "Breonna Taylor was a peripheral part of this whole deal, but she was tied into it," and their search warrant meant offi-

cers had been approved to go inside.

Judge Ann Bailey Smith swore in 10 men and 5 women as jurors and alternates, but released no information about their race or ethnicity.

Taylor, 26, worked as an emergency medical technician and was settling down for bed March 13, 2020, when Louisville officers with a narcotics warrant kicked in her door.

They drew fire from Taylor's boyfriend, who thought an intruder was breaking in.

Two officers at the door returned fire, killing Taylor. Neither was charged in her death.

Louisville settled with her family for \$12 million.

Canada protests: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Wednesday that he is removing emergency powers police can use after authorities ended the blockades at the borders and the occupation in Ottawa, Ontario, by truckers and others opposed to COVID-19 restrictions.

Trudeau said the "threat continues" but the acute emergency that included entrenched occupations has ended. His government invoked the powers last week and lawmakers affirmed the powers late Monday.

"The situation is no longer

"The situation is no longer an emergency, therefore the federal government will be ending the use of the emergencies act," Trudeau said.

The emergencies act allows authorities to declare certain areas as no-go zones. It also allows police to freeze truckers' personal and corporate bank accounts and compel tow truck companies to haul away vehicles.

The trucker protest grew until it closed a handful of Canada-U.S. border posts and shut down key parts of



People hold portraits of former Soviet leaders Vladimir Lenin, left, and Joseph Stalin during "Defender of the Fatherland Day" on Wednesday in Moscow. The nationwide holiday honors the country's military with flower-laying ceremonies and fireworks. This year's commemoration comes amid a possible wider Russian attack of neighboring Ukraine. **ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/AP**

the capital city for more than three weeks.

China Initiative dropped: The Justice Department said Wednesday that it was ending a Trump-era effort to fight Chinese national security threats that critics said unfairly targeted Asian professors.

The modifications to the program known as the China Initiative, which brought espionage, trade-secrets theft and cybercrime cases under a single banner, comes as Beijing continues to use spies, cyberhacking, theft and propaganda to challenge the United States' standing as the world's preeminent economic and military power. Such activity has only grown more acute.

The FBI has more than 2,000 investigations into Chinese efforts to steal American information and technology, and it is opening new cases related to Chinese intelligence operations about every 12 hours, Christopher

Wray, the bureau's director, said last month.

While the China Initiative has resulted in numerous pleas and convictions, several cases against academics have ended in acquittal or dismissal.

Vaccine intervals: Some people getting Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines should consider waiting up to eight weeks between the first and second doses, instead of the three or four weeks previously recommended, U.S. health officials said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Tuesday changed its advice on spacing the shots.

Officials said they were reacting to research showing the longer interval can provide more lasting protection against the coronavirus.

Research suggests that 12to 64-year-olds — especially males ages 12 to 39 — can benefit from the longer spacing, the CDC said.

The change won't affect

many people, coming 14 months after the beginning of the U.S. vaccination campaign. The CDC says 73% of people age 12 and older have gotten two doses of vaccine.

New COVID-19 vaccine: Drugmakers Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline said Wednesday that they will seek regulatory approval for a new COVID-19 vaccine after human trials showed it provided a high level of protection.

Late-stage trials found that two doses of the vaccine were about 58% effective in preventing infection and 75% effective in preventing moderate to severe disease, the companies said in a statement. A separate study on the vaccine's use as a booster showed that it "induced a significant increase in neutralizing antibodies," they

said.

The drugmakers said they plan to seek regulatory approval from both the

U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the European Medicines Agency, which regulates drugs in the European Union.

Cyclone in Africa: Cyclone Emnati crashed into the southeastern coast of Madagascar on Wednesday, ripping roofs off houses and raising fears of flooding and food shortages in a region recovering from the destruction inflicted by another tropical storm weeks ago.

More than 30,000 people were moved to safe accommodation before Emnati arrived, and Madagascar's National Office for Risk and Disaster Management estimates over 250,000 people could be impacted by the latest cyclone.

There were no immediate reports of deaths or injuries from Emnati.

Madagascar, an island off the east coast of Africa, has been hit by four major tropical storms in the last month, killing nearly 200 people.



Give the Gift of the Day They Were Born

Front page prints from the Hartford Courant celebrating the birthday of someone special.

SHOP NOW at courant.com/birthday or call (866) 545-3534

Hartford Courant

— STORE —



SCAN ME WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA TO SHOP!



FREE VIRTUAL OR IN-HOME CONSULATIONS

OCO 519 0106

860-512-8496

Serving most of the state of Connecticut

This Window World® Franchise is independently owned and operated by Window World of Connecticut LLC under license from Window World Inc. CT Lic. # 607051 ^See your Window World sales representative for more information about our guaranteed lowest pricing and paying up to 50% less than the price of our main competitors. *0% APR financing with approved credit through Wells Fargo Bank.

Black farmers in fear of foreclosure

Billions in federal aid to forgive debt frozen amid lawsuits

By Alan Rappeport The New York Times

WASHINGTON — For Brandon Smith, a fourth-generation cattle rancher from Texas, the \$1.9 trillion stimulus package that President Joe Biden signed into law nearly a year ago was long-awaited relief.

Little did he know how much longer he would have to wait.

The legislation included \$4 billion of debt forgiveness for Black and other "socially disadvantaged" farmers, a group that has endured decades of discrimination from banks and the federal government.

Smith, a Black father of four who owes about \$200,000 in outstanding loans on his ranch, quickly signed and returned documents to the Agriculture Department last year, formally accepting the debt relief. He then purchased more equipment for his ranch, believing that he had been given a financial lifeline.

Instead, Smith has fallen deeper into debt.

Months after signing the paperwork he received a notice informing him that the federal government intended to "accelerate" foreclosure on his 46-acre property and cattle if he did not start making payments on the loans he believed had been forgiven.

"I trusted the government that we had a deal, and down here at the end of the day, the rug gets pulled out from

under me," said Smith, 43.

Black farmers across the nation have yet to see any of Biden's promised relief. While the president has pledged to pursue policies to promote racial equity and correct decades of discrimination, legal issues have complicated that goal.



Texas cattle rancher Brandon Smith owes some \$200,000 in outstanding loans. MONTINIQUE MONROE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Last May, the Agriculture Department started sending letters to borrowers who were eligible to have their debt cleared, asking them to sign and return forms confirming their balances. The payments, which also are supposed to cover tax liabilities and fees associated with clearing the debt, were expected to come in phases beginning in June.

But the initiative has been stymied amid lawsuits from white farmers and groups representing them that questioned whether the government could offer debt relief based on race.

Courts in Florida and Wisconsin have issued preliminary injunctions against the initiative, siding with plaintiffs who argued that the debt relief amounted to discrimination and could therefore be illegal. A class-action lawsuit against the USDA is proceeding this year in Texas.

The Biden administration has not appealed the injunctions.

The legal limbo has created new and unexpected financial strains for Black farmers, many of whom have been unable to make investments in their businesses given ongoing uncertainty about their debt loads. It also poses a political problem for Biden, who was propelled to power by Black voters

The law was intended to help remedy years of discrimination that nonwhite farmers have endured, including land theft and the rejection of loan applications by banks and the federal government.

The program designated aid to about 15,000 borrowers who receive loans directly from the federal government or have their bank loans guaranteed by the USDA. Those eligible included farmers and ranchers who have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice, including those who are Black, Native American, Alaskan Native, Asian American, Pacific Islander or Hispanic.

After the initiative was rolled out last year, it met swift opposition.

Banks were unhappy that the loans would be repaid early, depriving them of interest payments. Groups of white farmers in Illinois, North Dakota, Oregon and Wisconsin sued the Agriculture Department, arguing that offering debt relief on the basis of skin color is discriminatory, suggesting that a successful Black farmer could have his debts cleared while a struggling white farm could go out of business.

America First Legal, a group led by the former Trump administration official Stephen Miller, filed a lawsuit making a similar argument in Texas.

Last June, before the money started flowing, a federal judge in Florida blocked the program on the basis that it applied "strictly on racial grounds" irrespective of any other factor.

The delays have angered the Black farmers that the Biden administration and Democrats in Congress were trying to help. They argue the law was poorly written and that the White House is not defending it forcefully enough in court out of fear that a legal defeat could undermine other policies that are predicated

on race. Those concerns became even more pronounced late last year when the government sent thousands of letters to minority farmers who were behind on their loan payments warning that they faced foreclosure. The letters were sent automatically to any borrowers who were past due on their loans, including about one-third of the 15,000 socially disadvantaged farmers who applied for the debt relief, according to the Agriculture Department.

The legal fight over the funds has stirred confusion, with Black and other farmers stuck in the middle. This year, the Federation of Southern Cooperatives has fielded calls from

minority farmers who said their financial problems have been compounded. It has become even harder for them to get access to credit now, they say, that the fate of the debt relief is unclear.

"It has definitely caused a very significant panic and a lot of distress among our members," said Dānia Davy, director of land retention and advocacy at the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund.

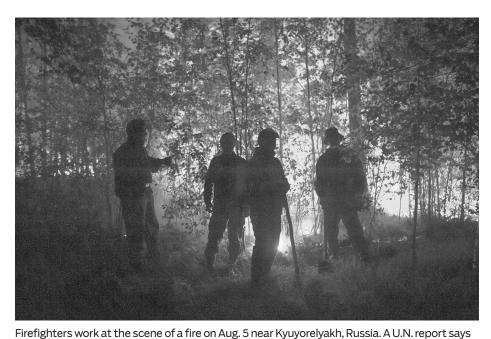
The Agriculture Department said that it was required by law to send the warnings but that the government had no intention of foreclosing on farms, citing a moratorium on such action that was put in place early last year because of the pandemic. After The New York Times inquired about the foreclosure letters, the USDA sent borrowers who had received notices another letter late last month telling them to disregard the foreclosure threat.

The more than 2,000 minority farmers who receive private loans that are guaranteed by the USDA are not protected by the federal moratorium and could still face foreclosure. Once the moratorium ends, farmers will need to resume making their payments if the debt relief program or an alternative is not in place.

Some Black farmers argue the Agriculture Department, led by Secretary Tom Vilsack, was too slow to disburse the relief and allowed critics time to mount a legal assault.

The Biden administration has been left with few options but to let the legal process play out, which could take months or years. The White House had been hopeful that a new measure in Biden's sweeping social policy and climate bill would provide the farmers the debt relief they have been expecting.

But that bill has stalled in the Senate and is unlikely to pass in its current form.



parts of Australia, India, Russia and the U.S. are seeing more blazes. IVAN NIKIFOROV/AP

Disastrous wildfires globally will get worse, UN report says

By Matthew Brown
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — A warming planet and changes to land use patterns mean more wildfires will scorch large parts of the globe in coming decades, causing spikes in unhealthy smoke pollution and other problems that governments are ill prepared to confront, according to a U.N. report released Wednesday.

The Western U.S., northern Siberia, central India and eastern Australia already are seeing more blazes, and the likelihood of catastrophic wildfires globally could increase by a third by 2050 and more than 50% by the turn of the century, according to the report from the United Nations Environment Program.

Areas once considered safe from major fires won't be immune, including the Arctic, which the report said was "very likely to experience a significant increase in burning."

Tropical forests in Indonesia and the southern Amazon of South America also are likely to see increased wildfires, the report concluded. "Uncontrollable and devastating wildfires are becoming an expected part of the seasonal calendars in many parts of the world," said Andrew Sullivan, with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in Australia, one of the report's authors.

The report describes a worsening cycle: Climate change brings more drought and higher temperatures that make it easy for fires to start and spread, and in turn those blazes release more climate-changing carbon into the atmosphere as they burn through forests and peatland.

Some areas, including parts of Africa, are seeing decreasing wildfires, in part because more land is being devoted to agriculture, said report co-author Glynis Humphrey from the University of Cape Town.

But U.N. researchers said many nations continue to spend too much time and money fighting fires and not enough trying to prevent them. Land use changes can make the fires worse, such as logging that leaves behind debris that can easily burn and forests that are intentionally ignited to clear land for farming, the report said.

Poor communities are often hit hardest by fires, which can degrade water quality, destroy crops and reduce land available to grow food.

"It impacts people's jobs and the economic situation that people are in," Humphrey said. "It's integral that fire be in the same category of disaster management as floods and droughts."

In the United States, officials recently unveiled a \$50 billion effort to reduce fire risks over the next decade by thinning forests around "hot spots" where nature and neighborhoods collide. Only some of that work has funding — about \$3 billion over five years under the recently passed federal infrastructure bill, according to officials in President Joe Biden's administration.

Critics of the administration's plan say it continues to put too much emphasis on fighting some fires that can be useful to clear out underbrush when the flames remain relatively small and don't threaten houses.

Prosecutors leading Trump investigation in NY resign

By William K. Rashbaum, Ben Protess and Jonah E. Bromwich The New York Times

NEW YORK — The two prosecutors leading the Manhattan district attorney's investigation into former President Donald Trump and his business practices abruptly resigned Wednesday amid a monthlong pause in their presentation of evidence to a grand jury, according to people with knowledge of the matter, throwing the future of the high-stakes inquiry

into doubt.
Carey Dunne and Mark
Pomerantz submitted their
resignations after the new
Manhattan district attorney, Alvin Bragg, indicated
to them that he had doubts
about moving forward with
a case against Trump, the
people said.

Pomerantz confirmed that he had resigned but declined to elaborate. Dunne declined to comment.

Without Bragg's commitment to move forward, the prosecutors late last month postponed a plan to question at least one witness before the grand jury, one of the people said. They have not questioned any witnesses in front of the grand jury for more than a month, essentially pausing their investigation into whether Trump inflated the value of his assets to obtain favorable loan terms from banks.

The reasons for Bragg's pullback are unknown, and he has made few public statements about the status of the inquiry since taking office. In a statement responding to the resignations of the prosecutors, a spokesperson for Bragg said that he was "grateful for their service" and that the investigation was ongoing.

Time is running out for this grand jury, whose term is scheduled to expire in April.



Mark Pomerantz was one of two prosecutors investigating Donald Trump to resign Wednesday. **DAVID KARP/AP 2002**

And without Dunne, a veteran of the office who has been closely involved with the inquiry for years, and Pomerantz, a leading figure in New York legal circles who was enlisted to work on it, the yearslong investigation could peter out.

The pause coincides with an escalation in the activity of a parallel civil inquiry by the New York state attorney general, Letitia James, whose office is examining some of the same conduct by Trump.

Another criminal inquiry into the former president has been gaining steam. In recent weeks, a district attorney in Atlanta asked a judge to convene a grand jury for an investigation into Trump's attempts to overturn the results of the 2020 election in Georgia.

Another criminal investigation, in New York's Westchester County, is examining Trump's financial dealings at one of his company's golf courses.

The DA's office investigation led to tax fraud charges last July against Trump's company, the Trump Organization, and its longtime finance chief, Allen Weisselberg.

weisselberg was accused of collecting more than \$1.7 million in off-the-books compensation, includ-

ing apartment rent, car payments and school tuition. He and the company have pleaded not guilty.

On Tuesday, lawyers for Weisselberg and the Trump Organization filed court papers seeking to throw out the case. Weisselberg's lawyers argued the DA's office was targeting him as punishment because he wouldn't flip on the former president.

Meanwhile, Ivanka Trump, former President Donald Trump's eldest daughter who served as one of his senior advisers, is in talks with the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol about the possibility of cooperating with the panel, according to two people familiar with the discussions.

It was not clear whether the negotiations, which aides described as preliminary, would result in Ivanka Trump providing substantive information to the panel or whether they were simply a stalling tactic, as

some committee aides fear. Ivanka Trump was one of several aides who tried and failed to persuade Donald Trump to call off the violence that injured more than 150 police officers and sent lawmakers and vice president, Mike Pence, fleeing for their lives.

US-China ties still as fraught as ever

Half-century after Nixon visit, no way forward found yet

By Ken Moritsugu Associated Press

BEIJING — At the height of the Cold War, President Richard Nixon flew into communist China's center of power for a visit that, over time, would transform U.S.-China relations and China's position in the world in ways that were unimaginable at the time.

The relationship between China and the United States was always going to be a challenge, and after half a century of ups and downs, is more fraught than ever. The Cold War is long over, but on both sides there are fears a new one could be beginning. Despite repeated Chinese disavowals, America worries that the democratic-led world that triumphed over the Soviet Union could be challenged by the authoritarian model of a powerful

and still-rising China. "The U.S.-China relationship has always been contentious but one of necessity," said Oriana Skylar Mastro, a China expert at Stanford University. "Perhaps 50 years ago the reasons were mainly economic. Now they are mainly in the security realm. But the relationship has never — and will never

be easy." Nixon landed in Beijing on a gray winter morning 50 years ago on Feb. 21. Billboards carried slogans such as "Down with American Imperialism," part of the upheaval under the Cultural Revolution that banished intellectuals and others to the countryside and subjected many to public humiliation and brutal and even deadly attacks in the name of class struggle.

Nixon's 1972 trip, which included meetings with Chairman Mao Zedong and a visit to the Great Wall, led to the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1979



Then-U.S. President Richard Nixon and first lady Pat Nixon lead the way as they take a tour of China's famed Great Wall on Feb. 24, 1972, near Beijing. AP

and the severing of formal ties with Taiwan, which the U.S. had recognized as the government of China after the communists took power in Beijing in 1949.

Premier Zhou Enlai's translator wrote in a memoir that, to the best of his recollection, Nixon said, "This hand stretches out across the Pacific Ocean in friendship" as he shook hands with Zhou at the airport.

For both sides, it was a friendship born of circumstances, rather than natural allegiances.

China and the Soviet Union, formerly communist allies, had split and even clashed along their border in 1969, and Mao saw the United States as a potential counterbalance to any threat of a Soviet invasion.

Nixon sought to isolate the Soviet Union and exit a prolonged and bloody Vietnam War that had divided American society. He hoped that China, an ally of communist North Vietnam in its battle with the U.S.backed South, could play a role in resolving the conflict.

The U.S. president put himself "in the position of supplicant to Beijing," said June Teufel Dreyer, a Chinese politics specialist at the University of Miami. Chinese state media promoted the idea that a prosperous China would be a peaceful China" and that the country was a huge market for American exports, she said.

It would be decades before that happened. First, the U.S. became a huge market for China, propelling the latter's meteoric rise from an impoverished nation to the world's second-largest economy.

Nixon's visit was a

"pivotal event that ushered in China's turn outward and subsequent rise globally," said the University of Chicago's Dali Yang, the author of numerous books on Chinese politics and economics.

Two years after Mao's death in 1976, new leader Deng Xiaoping ushered in an era of partial economic liberalization, creating a mix of state-led capitalism and single-party rule that has endured to this day.

China's wealth has enabled a major expansion of its military, which the U.S. and its allies see as a threat. The Communist Party says it seeks only to defend its territory. That includes, however, trying to control islands also claimed by Japan in the East China Sea and by Southeast Asian nations in the South China Sea, home to crucial shipping lanes and natural resources.

Still, Nixon's trip to China was touted afterward as the signature foreign policy achievement of an administration that ended in ignominy with Watergate.

Embarking on the process of bringing China back into the international fold was the right move, but the past half-century has yet to put relations on a stable track, said Rana Mitter, professor of Chinese history and modern politics at Oxford University.

"The U.S. and China have still failed to work out exactly how they will both fit into a world where they both have a role, but find it increasingly hard to accommodate each other," he said.

Chinese officials and scholars see the Nixon visit as a time when the two countries sought communication and mutual understanding despite their differences. Zhu Feng, the dean of the School of International Studies at Nanjing University, said the same approach is key to overcoming the current impasse.

The commemoration of Nixon's visit tells us whether we can draw a kind of power from history," he said.

President Joe Biden has said he wants a more predictable relationship with China but differences over trade and human rights make mutual understanding elusive. The prospect of stability in ties raised by Nixon's visit seems to be ever farther out of reach.

"China-U.S. relations are terrible," said Xiong Zhiyong, a professor of international relations at China Foreign Affairs University. "There are indeed people hoping to improve relations, but it is utterly difficult to achieve."

New target for crypto scams? Dating apps

By Kevin Roose The New York Times

The man from the dating app Hinge checked all of Tho Vu's boxes.

He was a boyishly handsome architect from China, staving in Marvland on a long-term assignment. They had never met in person he was still waiting to get his COVID-19 booster shot, he said — but they had texted back and forth for months, and she'd developed a serious crush.

He called her his "little sweetheart" and told her that he was planning to take her to China to meet his family when the pandemic

was over. So when the man, who went by the name Ze Zhao, told Vu, who works in customer service for a security company, that he could help her make money by trading Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, she was intrigued.

"I'd heard a lot about crypto in the news," she said. "I'm a curious person, and he actually was very knowledgeable about the whole trading process."

But the man wasn't trying to help Vu invest her money. He was entrapping her in an increasingly popular type of financial scam, she said, one that combines the age-old allure of romance with the newer temptation of overnight cryptocurrency riches.

Within weeks, Vu, 33, had sent more than \$300.000 worth of Bitcoin, nearly her entire life savings, to an address that Zhao had told her was connected to an account on the Hong Kong cryptocurrency exchange OSL. The website looked legitimate, offered 24/7 online customer support and had even been updated

to show Vu's balance changing as the price of Bitcoin rose and fell.

Zhao — whose real name could not be verified — had promised her that her crypto investments would help them get married and start a life together.

"We can make more money on top of OSL and go on a honeymoon," he said. according to a screenshot of their texts that Vu shared with The New York Times.

But there was no honevmoon, and no crypto wind-

Instead of going into an exchange account, Vu's money went into the scammer's digital wallet, and he vanished.

"I thought I knew him," she said. "Everything was a

Romance scams — the term for online scams that involve feigning romantic interest to gain a victim's trust – have increased in the pandemic. So have crypto prices. That has made crypto a useful entry point for criminals looking to part victims from their savings.

About 56,000 romance scams, totaling \$139 million in losses, were reported to the Federal Trade Commission last year, according to agency data. That is nearly twice as many reports as the agency received the previous vear.

In a bulletin last fall, the FBI's Oregon office warned that crypto dating scams were emerging as a major category of cybercrime, with more than 1,800 reported cases in the first seven months of the year.

Experts believe this particular type of scam originated in China before spreading to the United States and Europe.

Its Chinese name trans-



Tho Vu was tricked by a cryptocurrency scammer she met through a dating app. SCHAUN CHAMPION/THE NEW YORK TIMES

lates roughly as "pig butchering" - a reference to the way that victims are "fattened up" with flattery and romance before being scammed.

Jan Santiago, deputy director of the Global Anti-Scam Organization, a nonprofit that represents victims of online cryptocurrency scams, said that unlike typical romance scams – which generally target older, less tech-savvy adults — these scammers appear to be going after younger and more educated women on dating apps like

Tinder, Bumble and Hinge. "It's mostly millennials who are getting scammed," Santiago said.

Jane Lee, a researcher at the online fraud-prevention firm Sift, began looking into crypto dating scams last year. She signed up for several popular dating apps and quickly matched with men who tried to offer her investing advice.

"People are lonely from the pandemic, and crypto is super hot right now," she said. "The combination of the two has really made this

a successful scam." Lee, whose company works with several dating apps to prevent fraud, said that these scammers typically tried to move the conversation off a dating app and onto WhatsApp where messages are encrypted and harder for companies or law enforcement agencies to track.

From there, the scammer bombards the victim with flirtatious messages until turning the conversation to cryptocurrency.

The scammer, posing as a successful crypto trader, offers to show the victim how to invest his or her money for fast, low-risk

gains. Then, Lee said, the scammer helps the victim buy cryptocurrency on a legitimate site, like Coinbase or crypto.com, and provides instructions for transferring it to a fake cryptocurrency exchange. The victim's money appears on the exchange's website, and he or she starts "investing" it in various crypto assets, under the scammer's guidance, before the scammer ultimately absconds with the money.

Some victims have described being directed to realistic-looking websites with charts and tickers showing the prices of various crypto assets.

The names and addresses of the fake exchanges are changed frequently, and victims are often allowed to withdraw small amounts of money early on, making them more comfortable depositing larger sums later.

Niki Hutchinson, a 24-year-old social media producer from Tennessee, fell victim to a crypto romance scam last year.

She was visiting a friend in California when she matched on Hinge with a man named Hao, who said he lived nearby and worked in the clothing business.

The two continued texting on WhatsApp for more than a month after she returned home. She told Hao that she was adopted from China: he told her that he was Chinese, too, and that he hailed from the same province as her birth family.

Hutchinson had just inherited nearly \$300.000 from the sale of her childhood home, after her mother died. Hao suggested that she invest that money in cryptocurrency.

Eventually she agreed, sending a small amount of crypto to the wallet address he gave her, which he said was connected to an account

on a crypto exchange named ICAC. Then - when the money appeared on ICAC's website — she sent more.

She couldn't believe how easy it had been to make money, just by following Hao's advice.

Eventually, when she'd invested her entire savings, she took out a loan and kept investing more.

In December, Hutchinson started to get suspicious when she tried to withdraw money from her account. The transaction failed, and a customer service agent for ICAC told her that her account would be frozen unless she paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in

Her chat with Hao went silent.

"I was like, 'Oh, God, what have I done?" " she said.

Hutchinson doesn't expect to get her money back, but she hopes that other people will be more cautious about strangers who promise to help them invest in cryptocurrency.

You hear all these stories about people becoming millionaires," she said. "It iust felt like, 'Oh, well, cryptocurrency's the new trend, and I need to get in."

BUSINESS

Putin's 'hybrid warfare' batters Ukraine economy

Financial woes pile up in Kyiv as Russian troops encircle much of the nation

By Lori Hinnant Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine - One by one, embassies and international offices in Kyiv closed. Flight after flight was canceled when insurance companies balked at covering planes arriving in Ukraine. Hundreds of millions of dollars in investment dried up within

weeks. With Russian troops encircling much of the country, Ukrainian businesses large and small no longer plan for the future — they can barely foresee what will happen week

It is Ukraine, not Russia, where the economy is eroding the fastest under the threat of war. Even before Russian troops rolled into rebel-held areas in the country's east and Russian President Vladimir Putin recognized the independence of the separatist region, Ukraine was the biggest loser in the agonizing, slow-motion aggression.

The squeezing of Ukraine's economy is a key destabilizing tactic in what the government describes as "hybrid warfare" intended to eat away at the country from within. The Ukrainian president is also juggling state-sponsored cyberattacks, a Russia-backed separatist movement and the threat of 150,000 Russian soldiers surrounding his country on three sides.

The economic woes include restaurants that dare not keep more than a few days of food on hand, stalled plans for a hydrogen production plant that could help wean Europe off Russian gas and uncertain conditions for shipping in the Black Sea, where container ships must edge their way around Russian military vessels.

Andrey Stavnitser, CEO of the port operator TIS Group, said the Black Sea ports are operating as usual for now, but it's only a matter of time before the same insurance problems that cut off commercial flights start to hit the shipping industry. Ukraine is one of the world's top grain exporters, loading container ships that carry 12% of the world's wheat supply and 16% of its corn.

Alex Riabchyn is a former member of Ukraine's parliament who now spearheads a project to set up hydrogen plants for the national Naftogaz energy company. The idea is to give Europe — and especially its largest economy, Germany — a stable new source of hydrogen, which can be used to produce low-emission energy for transport, industry and other uses.

What he hears from European investors now is "we can buy everything that you can produce, but to come and invest to build these plants, it's too risky.'

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock acknowledged that the constant threat against Ukraine is "having very real effects — on investments, on air traffic, on jobs and on the daily life of people."

Since the beginning of the crisis in January, the national currency, the hryvnia, has steadily lost value, and it plunged 1% Tuesday after Russia recognized the two breakaway regions led by Russia-backed

The United States last week offered a \$1 billion loan guarantee, and the European Parliament approved \$1.3 billion in loans for Ukraine to cover financing needs this



Beekeeper Helio Medina displays a beehive frame with a GPS locater attached last week in Woodland, California. RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

Buzz on rising hive thefts

Beekeepers turning to GPS, cameras, other anti-theft devices to protect colonies

By Daisy Nguyen Associated Press

WOODLAND, Calif. - For a few frenzied weeks, beekeepers from around the country truck billions of honeybees to California to rent them to almond growers who need the insects to pollinate the state's most valuable crop.

But as almond trees start to bloom, blanketing entire valleys in white and pink flowers, so begin beehive thefts that have become so prevalent that beekeepers are now turning to GPS tracking devices, surveillance cameras and other anti-theft technology to protect their precious colo-

Hive thefts have been reported elsewhere in the country, most recently three hives containing about 60,000 bees taken from a grocery chain's garden in central Pennsylvania. They happen at a larger scale and uniquely in California this time of year because bees are most in demand during the largest pollination event in the world.

In the past few weeks, 1,036 beehives worth hundreds of thousands of dollars were reported stolen from orchards statewide, authorities said. The largest heist involved 384 beehives that were taken from a field in Mendocino County, prompting the state beekeepers association to offer a \$10,000 reward for information leading to their recovery.

"It's hard to articulate how it feels to care for your hives all year only to have them stolen from you," Claire Tauzer wrote on Facebook to spread the word about the reward. A day later, an anonymous tipster led authorities to recover most of the boxes and a forklift stolen from Tauzer's family business some 55 miles away, at a rural property in Yolo County. One suspect was arrested.

Investigators also found frames, the kinds used to hold the honeycomb, belonging to Helio Medina, another beekeeper who lost 282 hives a year ago.

Medina said the theft devastated his apiary, so this year he placed GPS trackers inside the boxes. He also strapped cable locks around them and installed cameras nearby. As the almond bloom approached and the hives became most valuable, he drove around patrolling the orchards in

"We have do what we can to protect ourselves. Nobody can help us," Medina said.

Thefts usually happen at night, when no one is in the orchard and the bees are back in their hives. The rustler is usually a beekeeper or someone familiar with the transportation of bees.

A tightening supply of bees and soaring pollination fees — jumping from less than \$50 to rent a hive two decades ago to as much as \$230 per hive this year — are

likely motivating beekeepers to go rogue. The demand for bees has steadily risen over the last 20 years as popularity of the healthy, crunchy nut turned California into

the world's biggest almond producer. What that means is that beekeepers are coming from as far as New York and Florida, and to get them to come all that way, pollinator fees have to rise," said Brittney Goodrich, an agriculture economist at the University of California at Davis.

The California State Beekeepers' Association urges beekeepers to communicate regularly with growers about where their hives are placed, and encourages growers to hire reputable beekeepers who can show proof of ownership of their hives.

USPS clears last obstacle to ordering a new fleet

By David Sharp **Associated Press**

The U.S. Postal Service said Wednesday that it cleared the final regulatory hurdle to placing orders for next-generation mail vehicles - and getting some of them on delivery routes next year — despite pushback from

the Environmental Protection Agency. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy said the completion of an evaluation required by the National Environmental Policy Act is an $important\,milestone\,for\,postal\,carriers\,who$ have soldiered on with overworked delivery trucks that went into service between 1987

The U.S. Postal Service's fleet comprises more than 230,000 vehicles, including 190,000 local delivery vehicles that are due

"The men and women of the U.S. Postal Service have waited long enough for safer, cleaner vehicles," DeJoy said in a statement.

Environmental groups have pushed back because only 10% of the vehicles would be electric-powered under the Postal Service contract with the manufacturer, Wisconsin-based Oshkosh Defense.

The decision published in the Federal Register allows the Postal Service to proceed with placing the first order that will include at least 5,000 electric-powered vehicles, along with an undetermined number of gas-powered vehicles, Postal Service spokesperson Kim Frum said.

The Postal Service believes it has met all its obligations and is moving forward despite a request by the EPA to conduct another environmental review that looks at longterm costs.

The new vehicles are more environmentally friendly and boast safety features like air bags, backup cameras and collision avoidance — all currently lacking on the aging Grumman Long Life Vehicles.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

\$450M to help ports ease jams

WASHINGTON — Clogged U.S. ports are being given access to nearly \$450 million in federal money from President Joe Biden's infrastructure law as part of the administration's recent stepped-up efforts aiming to ease supply chain congestion and lower prices for American consumers.

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg on Wednesday announced the availability of a first batch of competitive grants for ports that will be double last year's amount annually for five years.

The grants are among several pots of money under the \$1 trillion law that the department intends to steer toward providing midterm and long-term relief to the supply chain, which U.S. officials described as somewhat outdated and broken.

Agency warning about methane

PARIS - The International Energy Agency said Wednesday that emissions of planet-warming methane from oil, gas and coal production are significantly higher than governments claim.

The Paris-based agency said its analysis shows emissions are 70% higher than the official figure provided by governments worldwide. If all leaks were plugged, the methane captured would be enough to supply all of Europe's power sector, it said.

Experts say methane is responsible for almost a third of the temperature increase that has occurred since the start of the industrial revolution.

The countries with the highest emissions are China, Russia, the United States, Iran and India, the IEA said.

WHO aiming to spread vaccine technology

Associated Press

GENEVA - The World Health Organization is creating a global training center to help poorer countries make vaccines, antibodies and cancer treatments using the messenger RNA technology that has successfully been used to make COVID-19 vaccines.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Wednesday that the new hub will be in South Korea and will share mRNA technology being developed by WHO and partners in South Africa, where scientists are working to recreate the COVID-19 vaccine made by Moderna Inc.

That effort is taking place without

Moderna's help.

"Vaccines have helped to change the course of the COVID-19 pandemic but this scientific triumph has been undermined by vast inequities in access to these lifesaving tools," Tedros said.

It's the first time that WHO has supported such unorthodox efforts to reverse engineer a commercially sold vaccine, making an end run around the pharmaceutical industry, which has largely prioritized supplying rich countries over poor in both sales and manufacturing.

Both Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech, makers of the two authorized mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, have declined to share their vaccine recipe or technological knowhow with WHO and its partners.

WHO's chief scientist Dr. Soumya Swam-

inathan estimated that the attempt to recreate Moderna's vaccine would probably not yield any usable shots until late next year or 2024, but said that timeline could be shortened considerably if the manufacturer agreed to help.

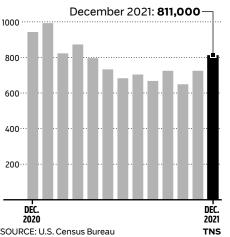
Africa currently produces just 1% of the world's COVID-19 vaccines and only about 11% of its population is immunized.

Last week, WHO said six African countries - Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia — would receive the knowledge and technological knowhow to make mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

Tedros said Wednesday that five more countries would now receive support from the South Africa hub: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, Serbia and Vietnam.

New residential sales

New houses sold, seasonally adjusted, scale in thousands



Supply chain troubles crimp Pratt & Whitney deliveries

By Stephen Singer Hartford Courant

Jet engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney may not deliver about 70 engines to Airbus in the first quarter due to casting shortages, highlighting persistent supply chain problems, the chief executive officer of parent company Raytheon Technologies Corp. said.

CEO Greg Hayes said at an industry analyst conference that Pratt & Whitney will "make that up later in the year," but the shortage will hold down growth in the quarter ending March

Speaking to analysts last



Jet engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney may not deliver about 70 engines to Airbus in the first quarter due to casting shortages. AP FILE

month, Hayes blamed a shortage of welders for the trouble in manufacturing castings. He warned then is on its military side.

of a slow first quarter. A more serious problem for Raytheon Technologies

Hayes said it will take more than a year or longer to get suppliers of parts making rocket motors back on schedule affecting Raytheon Missiles and Defense.

The shortage troubles are limited to a few suppliers. Raytheon Technologies works with about 13,000 product suppliers and of those, 1,390 are considered critical suppliers of engineered products "or something that is very difficult to get someplace else," Hayes

Raytheon is focused on 380 suppliers "that I would tell you are cause for some level of concern," he said. The aerospace and defense conglomerate has dispatched supply chain experts to at least 280 of those suppliers "working through some of the issues. such as schedules and labor, Hayes said.

Raytheon is "highly confident" that commercial aerospace will return this year and in 2023 strongly enough to restore business to 2019 levels, he said.

Manufacturers in numerous industries have been hobbled by supply chain problems due to COVID-19 that forced factories to shut, interrupting production. Manufacturing plants were not shut in Connecticut, but Pratt & Whitney operates in numerous locations elsewhere in North America and in Europe and Asia.

IRS allows taxpayers to skip ID 'selfie' tool after backlash

By Alan Rappeport The New York Times

WASHINGTON - The Internal Revenue Service said this week that it would allow taxpayers to opt out of using facial recognition technology to gain access to their online accounts and would shift to an entirely different identity verification system next year as the agency tries to alleviate backlash over its use of biometric data.

The decision came after the IRS said this month that it would "transition away" from using a thirdparty service, ID.me, to help authenticate people creating online accounts by using facial recognition to verify their identity.

The IRS adopted the technology as a way to enhance the security of taxpayer information and avoid data leaks, which have been a growing concern among lawmakers.

But activist groups and lawmakers from both parties expressed alarm, saying that

the use of video "selfies" to verify accounts was an invasion of privacy.

The IRS, which signed a two-year, \$86 million contract with ID.me, will continue to work with the

Taxpayers can still choose to have images of their faces scanned to gain access to their accounts, but those who decline to use facial recognition technology can verify their identity during a live, virtual interview with representatives from the company.

"No biometric data including facial recognition - will be required if taxpayers choose to authenticate their identity through a virtual interview," the IRS said in a statement.

Individual photos that have already been captured to create new accounts this tax season will be deleted from ID.me's servers in the coming weeks. Any new selfies that are

taken this year will not be stored on the servers, the IRS said.

The uproar over the agen-

cy's use of facial recognition is the latest challenge for the IRS, which is behind in processing more than 20 million 2020 tax returns, is coping with staffing shortages and remains short on funding. The pandemic has made tax season even more complicated than usual because the IRS must process additional information related to direct stimulus checks to households, as well as advance payments of the child tax credit.

Republican lawmakers, who for years have criticized the agency and its ability to keep data confidential, called the facial recognition technology "intrusive." Democrats have agreed, arguing that taxpayers should not have to sacrifice privacy for data security.

Proponents of facial recognition technology have noted that it is widely used in places such as airports. They argue that it is safer than providing websites with other identifying information, such as Social Security cards and other personal



The IRS signed a two-year contact with ID.me to help users authenticate and access accounts. PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

documents.

The IRS described the move to avoid facial recognition as a short-term solution. It said it was planning to use login.gov, which millions of Americans already use to authorize their identity for access to some federal websites. The IRS is working with the General Services Administration to ensure that login.gov meets its security requirements for use during next year's tax season.

A spokeswoman for the Treasury Department, which oversees the IRS and entered into the contract with ID.me, had no comment about the future of the contract with the firm.

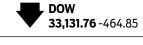
The fate of the company's other government contracts is not clear. The Social Security Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs and many state agencies also use ID.me to verify account users.

This month, ID.me said that it would roll out new options allowing government agencies to verify identities without facial recognition and that it would let people delete their photos after March 1.

"We have listened to the feedback about facial recognition and are making this important change," said Blake Hall, the chief executive of ID.me.

MARKET RUNDOWN

Thursday, February 24, 2022







35,840 **Dow Jones industrials** Close: 33.131.76 34,460 Change: -464.85 (-1.4%) 33,080 10 DAYS 37,000 36,000 34.000 33,000 A

Domestic Indexes							
	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD				
DOW Indus.	33,131.76	-464.85	-8.82%				
DOW Trans.	14,523.47	-211.51	-11.86%				
DOW Util.	902.04	-13.76	-8.03%				
NYSE Comp.	16,019.58	-196.03	-6.67%				
Nasdag Comp.	13,037.49	-344.03	-16.67%				
S&P 500	4,225,50	-79.26	-11.34%				
S&P 400	2,553.31	-42.94	-10.16%				
Wilshire 5000	42,509.43	-845.05	-12.28%				
Russell 2000	1,944.09	-36.08	-13.42%				

Commodities										
FUELS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD							
Crude Oil (bbl)	92.10	91.91	+22.46%							
Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.62	4.50	+23.94%							
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.73	2.71	+22.30%							
METALS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD							
Gold (oz)	1,909.20	1,906.10	+4.47%							
Silver (oz)	24.56	24.31	+5.26%							
(Previous and change figures r	eflect curren	it contract.)								
Foreign Exchange Money Rates										

	ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx		LOSE	PREV. WK.			
Britain	1.3537	.7387	Prime rate	3.25	3.25			
Canada	.7850	1.2738	3-mo. T-Bill	0.37	0.40			
China	.1584	6.3150	6-mo. T-Bill	0.75	0.68			
Euro	1.1306	.8845	5-yr T-Note	1.89	1.90			
Japan	.008697	114.98	10-yr T-Note	1.97	2.04			
Mexico	.049345	20.2655	30-yr T-Bond	2.29	2.34			
Global Markets								
	С	LOSE	CHG. %CH	G. %	YTD			

-61.64

+3.97

+140.28

-461.26

-.42%

+.05%

+.60%

-1.71%

-7.89%

+1.54%

+1.12%

-8.13%

14,631.36

7,498.18

23,660.28

-36.08	-13.42%	Nikkei	26,449.61
Str	cks of La	cal Into	roct

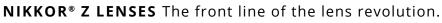
Frankfurt

Hong Kong

London

STOOK (TIOKED)	01.055	0110	YTD	STOOK (TIOKED)	01.005	0110	YTD
STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE		%CHG	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE		%CHG
AMC Entertainment A (AMC		74	-42.2	Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	280.27	-7.45	-16.7
AT&T Inc (T)	23.51	24	-4.4	Mullen Automotive (MULN)	.63	+.01	-88.0
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	109.76	-5.89	-23.7	Norwegian Cruise Ln (NCLH) 19.29	-1.07	-7.0
American Airlines Gp (AAL)		79	-7.3	Novartis AG (NVS)	86.52	+.69	-1.1
Amphenol Corp (APH)	73.67	-1.27	-15.8	Nu Holdings Ltd (NU)	7.52	-1.28	-19.8
Annaly Capital Mgmt (NLY)		15	-13.2	Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	223.87	-10.03	-23.9
Apple Inc (AAPL)	160.07	-4.25	-9.9	Ocugen Inc (OCGN)	3.13	-1.10	-31.2
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	43.60	+.09	-12.6	Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	74.69	-1.61	-14.2
Bank of America (BAC) Barnes Group (B)	44.78 46.26	78 +.07	+.7 7	Overstock.com Inc (OSTK)	44.77	+8.32	-24.1
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2469.83	-48.39	<i>1</i> +2.9	Palantir Technol (PLTR)	10.43	05	-42.7
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	67.93	+.48	+8.9	PayPal Holdings (PYPL)	100.72	-2.45	-46.6
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	102.24	+.32	9	Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	20.73	26	+16.3
Carnival Corp (CCL)	20.21	-1.30	+.4	Pfizer Inc (PFE)	46.87	66	-20.6
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)		-1.45	-19.2	Pitney Bowes (PBI)	4.68	03	-29.4
Charter Communic (CHTR)	570.60	-24.90	-12.5	Prudential Fncl (PRU)	110.89	-1.87	+2.4
Cigna Corp (CI)	225.09	-2.64	-2.0	Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	63.57	-1.11	-4.7
Clover HIth Inv (CLOV)	2.01	03	-46.0	Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	92.24	-1.30	+7,2
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	45.13	-1.81	-10.3	Revelation Biosci (REVB)	2.08	+.54	-79.6
ContextLogic Inc (WISH)	2.01	04	-35.4	Rogers Corp (ROG)	272.25		3
Disney (DIS)	145.87	-2.22	-5.8	SS&C Technlogies (SSNC)	73.41	80	-10 . 5
DraftKings Inc (DKNG)	19.63	+1.04	-28.5	SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	9.82	44	-37.9
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	114.75	+.14	-9.9	Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)		-3.02	-17.5
Ethan Allen (ETD)	23.42	-2.37	-10.9	Starwood Prop Trust (STWD		65	-4.3
Eversource Energy (ES)	79.70	-2.71	-12.4	Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.51	01	-11.8
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	76.77	+.31	+25.5	TJX Cos (TJX)	62.50	-2.75	-17.7
Ford Motor (F)	16.95	34	-18.4	Tenneco Inc (TEN)	19.35	+9.37	+71.2
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	4.68	06	-10.0 +3.7	Terex Corp (TEX)	40.18	54	-8.6
Gen Dynamics (GD) Gen Electric (GE)	216.27 92.65	55 -1.50	+3.7 -1.9	Tesla Inc (TSLA)	764.04	-57.49	-27.7
Grab Holdings Ltd A (GRAB		+.13	-25.7	Travelers Cos (TRV)	170.14	94	+8.8
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	69.41	90	+.5	Uber Technologies (UBER)	32.39	-1.29	-22.8
Honeywell Intl (HON)	178.96	-3.60	-14.2	United Rentals (URI)	299.20	-1.29	-22.8 -10.0
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	15.24	22	-4.3	United Rentals (URI) UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	459.62	-13.12	-10.0 -8.5
Imperial Petroleum (IMPP)	1.13	+.33	-47.2				-6.5 -50.4
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	22.72	33	-10.2	Vertiv Holdings LLC (VRT)	12.38	-7.19	
Intel Corp (INTC)	44.65	04	-13.3	Virgin Galactic Hldg (SPCE)	8.09	+.27	-39.5
Kaman (KAMN)	41.57	07	-3.7	Virtus Invest (VRTS)	239.74	-10.43	-19.3
Keycorp (KEY)	24.67	92	+6.7	Voya Financial (VOYA)	66.57	-1.75	+.4
Kodiak Sciences Inc (KOD)	9.86	-40.49	-88.4	Webster Financial (WBS)	58.72	84	+5.2
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	67.83	-1.00	6	1	1032.05	+1.83	+1.8
Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	23.97	-1.54	-37.0	World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	57.58	21	+16.7
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	42.48	75	-5.3	XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	67.31	-1.34	-13.1
Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	198.45	-3.63	-41.0	Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	20.05	87	-11.4
MetLife Inc (MET)	68.05	91	+8.9	Yamana Gold Inc (AUY)	5.11	+.17	+21.1





Purchase the NIKKOR Z 24-50mm **f/4-6.3 lens** together with the Nikon Z 5, Z 6, Z 6II, Z 7, Z 7II or Z 9 Body Only and receive the below Instant Savings on the lens:



\$299.95[±] \$100 Instant Savings



\$799.95[±] \$100 lnstant Savings



\$999.95[±] \$200 Instant Savings



INSTANT SAVINGS WITH CAMERA PURCHASE Purchase the AF-S DX NIKKOR 18-140mm

f/3.5-5.6G ED VR lens together with any Nikon DSLR and receive the following Instant Savings on the lens:



www.camerabar.com

\$399.95⁺ \$100 Instant Savings*



75 Asylum Street • Hartford, CT 06103 860-525-2159 Convenient Parking Nearby Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm, Sat 10am-2pm



■ Nikon Authorized Dealer

nstant Savings valid January 31, 2022 through February 27, 2022. *All prices are suggested retail price. Actual selling offer is determined by each dealer at the time of sale. All prices and specifications are subject to change without notice. Instant Savings Offers do not apply to any used, refurbished or reconditioned products. Quantities are limited to in-stock merchandise only. Images are for illustrative purposes only. Nikon is not responsible for printing or typographical errors. All Nikon products include Nikon Inc. USA limited warranty. ©2022 Nikon Inc

Helen Bennett

PINION



Jonah Goldberg's advice for Russian President Vladimir Putin is to be careful what you wish for. YURI KOCHETKOV/POOL PHOTO

Putin's wish and the fallout he can't control



Jonah Goldberg

Vladimir Putin announced Monday that he had decided to recognize two regions in eastern Ukraine as independent breakaway "republics" and immediately ordered

Russian troops into those territories to carry out "peacekeeping" functions. A better term would be "tornaway republics" since Putin has been waging war there for years. It remains to be seen whether this is the start of an all-out invasion of Ukraine.

Regardless, Putin should be careful what he wishes for.

In American foreign policy debates, "careful what you wish for" is a common refrain. Various realists, non-interventionists and isolationists championing "restraint" invoke it all the time. Citing Thomas Jefferson's caution against "entangling alliances" and John Quincy Adams' admonition against going abroad "seeking monsters to destroy," opponents of an assertive U.S. foreign policy have been warning of "blowback" or "unintended consequences" for generations.

It's great advice — and not just when it comes to foreign policy. What parent hasn't said "be careful what you wish

My problem is that in the American context, such warnings tend to be parochial and arrogant, because they assume that America's foreign policy options are unconstrained and any use of force — or step in that direction — is purely a matter of ideological choice. Thus, every policy mistake or setback is seen as stemming from a decision we didn't have to make.

Using this lens, our adversaries' actions are rational, inevitable or understandable responses to our blundering. (There's

a lot of this sort of thing on the right of late. Putin's aggression toward Ukraine is apparently both Joe Biden's fault and none of our business).

Sometimes, however, America isn't the victim of blowback, it is the blowback. For instance, someone should have told Osama bin Laden to be careful what he wished for. He got what he wanted on 9/11. He hoped the attack would launch a war between the West and the Islamic world ending with an al-Qaida-led victory against the West. Suffice it to say, he died from foreign policy blowback.

Similarly, restraint invites blowback, too. The withdrawal from Afghanistan was the greatest foreign policy win for the champions of retrenchment and restraint in decades, demonstrating there's a significant difference between winning a policy dispute and a policy win.

Putin always wins policy disputes because he's a gangster autocrat nobody who wants to stay out of prison or the grave disputes his policies. But that doesn't mean those policies have been successful. His Ukraine strategy has been backfiring for years.

Russia's heavy-handed meddling resulted in the 2014 Maidan revolution, and Ukraine's reorientation toward the West and democracy. His unfolding efforts to intimidate Ukraine back into a vassal state and to neuter NATO have also

Ukrainian national identity and commitment to democracy have intensified. And rather than force NATO to shrink back to its 1997 membership, as Putin demanded, he may have enticed Sweden and Finland to join it.

It's often said that Putin "has all the cards" in the Ukrainian crisis. This is true, if you mean that he's the primary driver of events. But driving events and having

mastery over them are two very different

We should do everything short of putting U.S. troops in Ukraine to deter Putin because an all-out invasion would be a humanitarian and geostrategic catastrophe. But it's also hard to see how all-out war would end well for Putin. The Ukrainians will fight. And there's no reason to believe the Russian people want to see Russians die by the thousands to kill Ukrainians by the tens of thousands.

It's worth noting that Putin has gone to extraordinary lengths to hide the Russian casualties of his military forays, because he recognizes how brittle public support for his rule really is. Western sanctions would further cripple Russia economically and any hopes that NATO would continue to wither as a military force would probably vanish. The Biden administration has made mistakes so far. It should have issued new sanctions the moment Putin started to amass troops on the Ukraine border. It shouldn't have

surrendered in Afghanistan the way it did. But once Biden recognized the stakes of this crisis, his strategy has had much to commend it. By releasing intelligence - real and alleged - about Putin's intent to invade under some bogus pretext of "provocation," the administration made it harder for Russia to follow its planned

The point is to force Putin to realize that he can't will victory into existence. Because he has no one in his inner circle to tell him, "be careful what you wish for," that job has fallen to us. We've failed to convince him so far, but events not to his liking may force the lesson upon him eventually.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Biden aims Ukraine talk at US allies, not voters

By Jonathan Bernstein

Bloomberg Opinion

A high-profile speech on Ukraine is probably the last thing Democratic pollsters would have wanted from President Joe Biden. Good news on the pandemic would be welcome. If there had to be tough talk about a nasty foe, they would surely have hoped it would be about inflation, not Russian President Vladimir Putin. Or they may have wanted the president out there touting the booming numbers on jobs and economic growth. Anything but a foreign policy problem that few Americans care about.

But there he was on Tuesday, giving a speech about Ukraine and introducing new sanctions on Russia. He emphasized how closely the U.S. and he personally are working with North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies, and how these sanctions are only a "first tranche" — enough to severely punish the Russians for what they've already done, but leaving options in reserve if Putin continues on the same course.

What is striking here is the extent to which Biden's public opinion and reputation interests are at cross purposes. For one thing, sanctions will certainly put pressure on world oil prices and therefore the U.S. economy. So it's hardly what Biden might want in terms of policies that could rescue his approval ratings and save Democrats in the coming midterms.

But presidents can't just ignore foreign policy. And in this situation, Biden has chosen to play up the issue, repeatedly bringing it up and giving White House statements on it. That's unlikely to help his popularity. But he presumably thinks it is best for the nation's interest to do so — and that it is best for his own reputation to demonstrate mastery of foreign affairs.

It's early yet, but so far that seems to be working: Some of the same folks who gave Biden poor marks for the U.S. actions in Afghanistan over the summer seem to be much happier with how he's handling this situation. Not just the pundits and outside experts: Six months ago there were reports that Biden wasn't sufficiently consulting with allies, but now there are few, if any, whispers of that.

Biden's speech on Tuesday wasn't his most eloquent or his best delivered, but I suspect it got the job done if the goals included keeping NATO on the same anti-Russia page. His policies are likely to fall in the range most people who care about foreign policy will support — tough enough, but not too bellicose, and preserving some serious options for the next round.

But as much as Biden doesn't want to be talking about a foreign problem, Republicans don't have much room to maneuver, either. Neither a pro-Putin stance nor an actual call for U.S. troop involvement is likely to be popular, so other than nitpicking Biden on the timing or specifics, there's not as much room for easy attacks as they might like.

To put that last point another way: Presidents aren't the only politicians who are driven by and constrained by events, regardless of what they might want to spend their time on. Indeed, presidents have a somewhat better chance of driving events, rather than the other way around. But only if they are skilled at maximizing their influence.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency,

New virus variants complicate question of vaccine mandates

Bloomberg Opinion

Post-infection immunity might be a strange topic for political strife, but it touches on COVID-19 vaccine mandates and whether those who've had the virus should be exempt. And so when publications such

as The Hill run headlines such as "CDC Finally Recognizing Natural Immunity Legislators should Follow," it carries the implication the CDC has been ignoring some long-held scientific evidence. But the science is more complicated and unsettled than that. The relevant science question isn't

whether natural immunity exists but whether it's as protective and lasts as long as vaccine-induced immunity. Studies have given conflicting answers. The situation is changing again, as the BA.2 variant is starting to take over. It's still considered omicron, but it looks to be wildly different from the version of omicron that's been dominant,

called BA.1. Scientists confirmed that an infection with SARS-CoV-2 creates some degree of immunity in May 2020, based in part on a study published in Science, which was led by Dan Barouch, director of the Center for Virology and Vaccine Research at Boston's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. "We did the study in May 2020, not so much to test natural immunity, but really as part of our vaccine program," he told me recently.

Vaccines work by fooling the body into acting as if it's been infected, and so vaccines work best against diseases where post-infection immunity is strong and lasting, he said, such as measles, mumps and rubella. It hasn't worked for HIV, a virus that attacks

the immune system and can't be cleared except in some rare cases with medical inter-

vention. With COVID-19, antibodies wane over time. That can decrease immunity, as can new variants. With the original variant, it looked like vaccines gave better protection than getting infected. But during the delta surge, some studies showed that had reversed. New CDC data show that a previous infection gave people better protection against delta than either one or two shots of a vaccine. But getting vaccinated in addition to getting infected gave people the strongest protection — so it wasn't overkill to recommend vaccination to people who'd been infected. Boosters also restored most of the effectiveness of the vaccines.

"There was an early perception that vaccination is hands down better than natural infection — and a lot of people still feel that will be the case," Barouch said. "But I think it's more nuanced now, and a lot of people think natural immunity gives you a substantial level of protection." But how much protection, compared to vaccination? "That's not clear." Barouch agrees with many other researchers I've talked to - that a confirmed COVID-19 infection could probably substitute for a single shot.

Before the COVID-19 vaccines were developed, scientists told me that with other viral infections, vaccines are sometimes more protective than past infection and sometimes less so. One reason vaccines sometimes work better is that viruses often disable a person's immune response as part of their own survival strategy. That's happening with SARS-CoV-2 according to some studies, said Shiv Pillai, a professor of

immunology at Harvard Medical School.

The disadvantage for COVID-19 vaccines is that they are designed to only produce antibodies that attack just one part of the virus — the spike protein. As the spike protein keeps mutating, the vaccines lose some efficacy. Getting infected might provide people with broader, multivariant protection.

It seems absurd for anyone to try to get infected as a way to gain protection against getting infected, but it's possible some people might try to get infected if they are avidly anti-vaccine, and infection could satisfy a vaccine mandate or passport system. Vaccines are vastly safer than getting the virus, but not everyone is well informed or thinking clearly.

Omicron's heavy mutations changed the game. The vaccines still offer good protection against severe disease, but neither vaccination nor infection with an earlier variant offers much protection against a mild omicron infection. This post by Eric Topol, a professor of medicine at Scripps Research, ties together a lot of studies, but he also points out that most of the studies comparing vaccine-induced immunity to past infection involve the original variant or delta. Now the pandemic is nearly all omicron — a strikingly different variant that's much better at escaping both kinds of immunityand there's much less known.

The new BA.2 version of omicron is forcing scientists to recalculate — yet again. Barouch has been leading some of the first experiments testing how well BA.2 slips by defenses from past infection or vaccines. "It's slightly worse, but not a ton worse," he told me. It looks like omicron infection

protects to an extent against BA.2, so the experts think it's unlikely to lead to the kind of massive infection wave caused by the original omicron. But there are scores of other unexpected things that could happen -good or bad - with this ever-changing

Policy decisions about vaccine mandates can be informed by science but can't be determined by science. Those decisions depend on the ethics and legality of mandating vaccines, and whether staying unvaccinated harms society by increasing transmission or depleting precious hospital

Policy aside, severely immune-compromised people are already being advised to get a second booster. Right now, there's no recommendation for an additional booster for the general public — doctors have told me it's rare to see fully boosted people be hospitalized for COVID-19. But that might change in the coming months, if there's a new wave, or evidence that immunity is fading. A past infection might play into that decision. (For those wondering whether they've been infected, it's possible to get a test that would pick up antibodies not generated by the

vaccine, but those aren't widely available.) Such decisions hinge on which new variants emerge in the future, ongoing research into the duration of immunity, and whether scientists eventually develop a more variant-proof coronavirus vaccine. The last two years may have gone by slowly, but we're still dealing with a new disease, and there's a lot yet to learn.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.



To advertise, call 860-525-2525 or placeanad.courant.com



Stuff



BLUESTONE! BLUESTONE!!
BLUESTONE!!!
Steps - Sidewalks Patios
We also repair existing steps / sidewalks / patios 860-633-6612

FIREWOOD 2 cords \$390 includes delivery, 1 cord, call for pricing 860-228-2003

OSTRINSKY SCRAP Buyers of scrap Manchester, CT. 860-643-5879







STONE WALLS Walkways, natural stone. We can break stone into usable wall stone. Pavers, blue stone, patio, Call 860-633-6612

STOOLS 2 high back swivel stools, \$45 each, 860 667 4026

TREE WORK Take down, yard expansion, brush clearing & saw mill service. Free written estimates & reasonable rates. 860-228-2003

Wanted To Buy



BUY VINTAGE ELECTRONICS OLD TOYS, MILITARY JEWELRY, ADVERTISING WATCHES, MUSCIAL ADVERTISING WATCHES, MUSCIAL INSTRUMENTS, CAMERAS, WATCHES, SIGNS, ART, SPORTS MEMORABILIA, OLD STUFF, ANTIQUES, GUITARS, AMPS, TUBE HI-FI, RECEIVERS, AUDIO EQ, RADIOS, HAM, CB, SAXOPHONES & MANY OTHER OLD ITEMS!

CALL 860-707-9350

ALWAYS BUYING MACHINIST TOOLBOXES Tools & tooling, contents of machine shops, home workshops & small lathes Call 860-985-5760

TAG SALES

Tag Sales & Flea Markets

SIMSBURY ESTATE SALE

JIMISBURT ESIAIE SALE

17 School House Lane Friday,
February 25 7am-3pm, & Saturday,
February 26, 8am-2pm
Sectional sofa(s) leather studded
sofa/chair. queen/ king bedrooms
dining room/kitchen sets, art, carpets,
collectible sports items, weights/
bench, crystal chandelier, high end
entertainment units, mirrors, tables,
chairs, lamps, love seats, outdoor
furniture, costume jewelry, household,
decorative, garage items. Everything

AT YOUR SERVICE

At Your Service

CALL MARKS AUTO PARTS

Hartford

FLEVATOR SERVICE COMPANY ntenance, Repair, Modernization Servicing All of Connecticut Competitive Rates and Quality hartfordelevator@vahoo.com

860-757-3960 Car Reviews



Dogs



GOLDEN DOODLE Puppies mostly red with white markings, will be 20-25 pounds full-grown, Come with a

Car Reviews Saturdays in MOTORING



860-525-2525

Auto / Truck Wanted

CASH PAID

for any Toyota, other makes. Any condition. Running or not, crashed okay. Will take other makes and models. 203-600-4431

ANTIQUES & OLD STUFF WANTED Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Toys, Games, Silver Plated Items, Costume Jewelry

Pottery, Typewriters, Sewing Machines, Clocks, Tools, Xmas, Lanterns, Oil Lamps, Glassware, Knives, Hunting, Fishing, Books. 860-874-8396

BUYING PRE1980 Toys, Model Kits, Comic Bks, Baseball Card Posters & Cards, Pennants, Political, Postcards, Beer, Bar, Soda, Oil & Gas Station Cans&Signs, License Plates, Jewelry, Masonic & Fraternal Items, Zippos, I check Bsmnt/Attic. 860-817-4350

PINBALL MACHINES WANTED

Announcements

Lost/Found

IMPOUND - #182 Shih tzu mix male black Call Hartford PD 860-757-4000

LOST CAT - Male, Gray Tiger Cat. 1 bottom canine is chipped. In Bristol. 860-816-6511

Rentals

WEST HARTFORD

WAITING LIST OPENING THE RESIDENCES AT 540 NEW PARK

The Residences at 540 New Park

Ihe Residences at 540 New Park will be accepting pre-applications for apartments located at 540 New Park Avenue, West Hartford CT 06110. Eligibility for these units is subject to household income limits and other eligibility circleria under the federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program.

Current 2021-2022 LIHTC Maximum

Rents will range from approximately \$837-\$1033 for a one bedroom and \$995-\$1230 for a two bedroom unit depending on household income level (prices subject to change).

If you have a disability and require a Reasonable Accommodation, please call 860-993-7109.

Only one pre-application per family will be accepted; duplicate pre-applications will be disqualified.

This pre-application is accessible through any computer, tablet or smart phone. After successfully completing the pre-application, you may print the confirmation of successful completion of your application.

The Residences at 540 New Park will use a Random-Draw Lottery System to determine the waiting list order from all applications.

ss to its housing or programs. Any

ld and participate in the Efforts will be coordinated

eligible individual with disabilities will

be served. Those who have visual or hearing impairments will be provided with the necessary information to

to comply with the nondiscrimination requirements of the Fair Housing Act.

This is an equal opportunity housing development, www.540NewPark.com

Antiques/

Classics

PORSCHE 914 1974 - \$2200 Solid Rolling Chassis Call No Txt 860-209-6629

Wheels

of your application.

understand

(LIHTC) Program.

1 PERSON - \$43,860 2 PERSONS - \$50,100 3 PERSONS - \$56,340 4 PERSONS - \$62,580

Real Estate

Call or text 860-406-4824 Email sell@newenglandpinball.com

Auto & SUV's

MERCEDES-BENZ E-CLASS 2015 \$27499.00 Beautiful Mint!!! 201 Mercedes Benz E350 8605188587

2 Lines 3 Days FREE*

To Place An Ad Go Online today courant.com/ advertiser



tribune publishing recruitment services

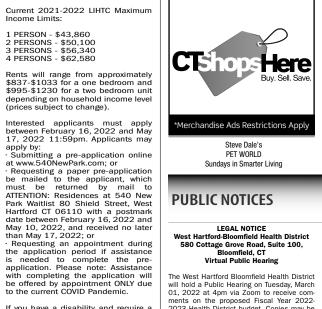
YOUR PERFECT IS WAITING

Stop wasting time searching for jobs Find the right jobs with tribune publishing recruitment services

We work hard to make your job search easy. With our expansive network of distinguished employers from coast to coast and advanced job matching technology, you'll find opportunities that match your skills, your personality and

Search jobs. Post your resume. Stand out from the crowd.

courant.com/jobs



Merchandise Ads Restrictions Apply



courant.com/advertiser • 860-525-2525

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District 580 Cottage Grove Road, Suite 100, Bloomfield, CT Virtual Public Hearing

The West Hartford Bloomfield Health District will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 01, 2022 at 4pm via Zoom to receive comments on the proposed Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Health District budget. Copies may be obtained from the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District effice or on the Health Health District office or on the Health website, www.westhartfo health. The public hearing will be conducted exclusively as a virtual public hearing in accordance with Governor Lamont's executive orders regarding the conduct of public meetings and proceedings.

Any interested person(s) may participate in the public hearing by calling at the scheduled date and time and using the following access

March 1, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. Zoom Meeting ID: 842 4998 4990 Call: +1 301 715 8592 Access Code: 323515 Participants using caller ID blocking will not

be permitted to participate. Participants will be muted upon entry into the public hearing and only unmuted once prompted by the Chair/Moderator. 2/15-2/26/22 7143536

Notice of Public Sale: The following selfstorage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart at 55 Research Parkway. Old Saybrook, CT 06475 to satisfy a lien on March 08, 2022 at approx, 12:00 p.m. at www.storagetreasures.com:

Unit 326: William Dimas

Unit 341: William Dimas Unit 347: David Baranowski

Unit 811: Leo Gilbert

Unit 2242: Kayla Cambell Unit 2305: Robert Sobolewski 2/22 & 2/24/22 7151467

Car Reviews

Connecticut

PET WORLD Sundays in Smarter Living Tuesday, April 19, 2022 6:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m. Thursday, April 21, 2022 6:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m. Saturday, April 23, 2022 (if needed) 9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 2/24/2022 7152229 Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center Public Notice Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center (The Applicant) is filing an application for a Certificate of Need under section §19a-638 of the Connecticut General Statues. The Applicant is requesting approval to establish an outpatient substance abuse treatment

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-storage cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart, 45 School House Rd, Old Saybrook ,CT 06475 to satisfy a lien on March 08, 2022 at approx. 12:00 PM at www.storagetreasures.com

Connecticut

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD

Property Owners in the Town of East Hartford are hereby notified that the Board of Assessment Appeals will meet during the month of March at Town Hall for the sole

purpose of hearing appeals related to Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicles assessments for the October 1, 2021 Grand

All persons wishing to appeal their assessment must submit an appeal form by MARCH 21, 2022. Appeal forms are available in the Assessor's Office or on the Town of East Hartford website (www.easthartfordct.gov). For further information, call (860) 291-7260.

Hearings will be held on the following dates:

Unit 3041: George Dorothy

Unit 3043: Carolyn Thomas

Unit 3053: Justin Saunders

facility at the Burgdorf Clinic, located at 131 Coventry Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06112. The total capital expenditure of this project is \$250,000. 2/23, 2/24, 2/25/2022 7154289

PET WORLD

Sundays in Smarter Living

Linda Preysner, M.D. at Nutmeg Medical Group, LLC is closing her medical practice effective 3/1/2022

You should arrange for a new doctor ASAP. You might want $\ensuremath{t\epsilon}$ contact your insurance provider, the referral service at one of the local hospitals or the Connecticut State Medical Society for recommendations.

A summary of your medical record will be mailed with the official letter notifying you of the practice closure. This will supply more than enough information for your ongoing care. Instructions on how to obtain your complete medical record are still being finalized and will be sent at that time.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT SUPERIOR COURT JUVENILE MATTERS

ORDER OF NOTICE Notice to John Doe, father of child born on 4/17/21 to Wanda V. of parts unknown

A petition has been filed seeking:

Termination of parental rights of the above named in minor child(ren)

The petition, whereby the court's decision can affect your parental rights, if any, regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on 3/10/22 @

2:00 PM at Superior Court, Juvenile Matter, 920 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06106 Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the hearing of this petition be given by publishing this Order of Notice once, immediately upon receipt, in Hartford Courant, a newspaper

circulation in the town/city Hartford, CT Judge: Hon. Michael Dannehy

Signed: Tara Artis - Clerk Signed: 2/17/22

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure an attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public Defender. Request for an attorney should be made immediately in person, by mail, or by fax at the court office where your hearing is 2/24/2022 7157131

STATE OF CONNECTICUT SUPERIOR COURT JUVENILE MATTERS ORDER OF NOTICE

Notice to Wanda Vega, mother of child born on 4/17/21

A petition has been filed seeking:

of parts unknown

Termination of parental rights of the above named in minor child(ren)

The petition, whereby the court's decision can affect your parental rights, if any, regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on 3/10/22 @ 2:00 PM at Superior Court, Juvenile Matter 920 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06106

Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the hearing of this petition be given by publishing this Order of Notice once, immediately upon receipt, in Hartford Courant, a newspaper circulation in the town/city Hartford, CT

Judge: Hon. Michael Dannehy Signed: Tara Artis - Clerk Signed: 2/17/22

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public Defender. Request for an attorney should be made immediately in person, by mail, or by fax at the court office where your hearing is 2/24/2022 7157156

CTShopsHere courant.com/advertiser 860-525-2525

STATE OF CONNECTICUT SUPERIOR COURT JUVENILE MATTERS ORDER OF NOTICE

Notice to Jose Ortiz, father of child born on 4/17/21 to Wanda V. of parts unknown A petition has been filed seeking:

Termination of parental rights of the above named in minor child(ren) The petition, whereby the court's decision can

affect your parental rights, if any, regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on 3/10/22 @ 2:00 PM at Superior Court, Juvenile M 920 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06106 Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the

hearing of this petition be given by publishing this Order of Notice once, immediately upon receipt, in Hartford Courant, a newspaper circulation in the town/city Hartford, CT

Judge: Hon. Michael Dannehy Signed: Tara Artis - Clerk Signed: 2/17/22

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure an attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public Defender. Request for an attorney should be made immediately in person, by mail, or by fax at the court office where your hearing is 2/24/2022 7157142

TOWN OF AVON PUBLIC HEARING March 10, 2022

In accordance with the provisions of Section In accordance with the provisions of Section 7-247a of the Connectiout General Statutes, notice is hereby given that the Avon Water Pollution Control Authority (AWPCA) will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. via GoToMeeting to consider and permit all interested persons to speak on the plan of the said Authority to accept into the Town of Avon's sanitary sewer collection system the following: sewers that were constructed per the Sewer Permit Agreement between the Town of Avon and 22 Agreement between the Town of Avon and 22 Dale Road, LLC. within Dale Road in the Town of Avon, Connecticut dated August 1, 2018 and recorded August 10, 2018 at Volume 721, Page 1106 of the Avon Land Records.

Dated at Avon, Connecticut, this 24th day of February, 2022 AVON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY 2/24/2022 7157170

Liquor Notices

LIQUOR PERMIT NOTICE OF APPLICATION

This is to give notice that I, DANIEL CHAVEZ, 970 FARMINGTON AVE WEST HARTFORD, CT 06107-2139. Have filed an application placarded 02/21/2022 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a RESTAURANT LIQUOR PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at 970 FARMINGTON AVE WEST HARTFORD CT 06107-2139. The business will be owned by EL SANTO WEST HARTFORD LLC. Entertainment will consist of: Disc Jockeys, Live Bands Objections must be filed by: 04-04-2022.

02/21/2022 DANIEL CHAVEZ 2/24, 3/3/2022 7156250



YOUR PERFECT IS WAITING

Extend your reach. Access customized technology. Simplify your search.

courant.com/jobs



OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Avon Patricia E. Barnes **Bristol** Patricia E. Barnes Larry A. Blaise* Colchester Henry Alves* **East Hartford**

Herbert A. Greenwood, Jr. Judy A. Lydon Ellington Herbert A. Greenwood, Jr.

Farmington
Justin D. Good Granby Christopher B. Jack, Jr

Hartford Ann E. Lebrun Donald M. Pearlstein John A. Starkes Marshall Wice

Manchester Irene Haberern **New Britain** Ronald Pringle

Carol A. White Newington Donald R. Guay Martha Mccabe **No Additional Town** Wanda Piotrowicz Other Towns in CT Joseph Ganem John Miecznikowski* **Out of State** John Miecznikowski' **Portland** Martha Mccabe Frank L. Sanborn, Jr. Rocky Hill Donald R. Guay

Simsbury Gretchen Craffey Christopher B. Jack, Jr Ronald Pringle Carol A. White

Unionville Justin D. Good Waterbury Joseph Ganem

West Hartford Gretchen Craffey Donald M. Pearlstein John A. Starkes Marshall Wice

Windsor Judy A. Lydon Enid M. Manfreda Windsor Locks Irving Banning

OUT OF STATE

Christopher B. Jack, Jr Smithfield, NC Ann E. Lebrun Lelund, NC Donald M. Pearlstein New York, NY Wanda Piotrowicz Covington Twp, PA Carol A. White Fort Myers, FL

^e Denotes name listing only. Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Barnes, Patricia E.Corcoran



Patricia Elinor (Corcoran) Barnes, of Avon, wife of the Rev. William Seth Barnes, died February 15, 2022, at the John Dempsey Hospital of the University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington following a brief illness. She was born on March 7, 1936, in New Britain, Connecticut to the late Edward and Bertha Corcoran. Educated in the New Britain and Bristol Public School systems, she

graduated from Bristol High School in 1954. She became licensed in nursing as an LPN through the Goodwin Technical School and Yale New Haven Hospital School of Nursing and completed courses in Health Care Management at St. Joseph College in Windham, Maine. Pat worked in several venues as a nurse, including hospitals, nursing homes, physician offices and the American Red Cross. She retired from Apple Rehab of Avon in 2011 as Resident Care Coordinator. After retirement, she became a volunteer for Mclean Hospice Care in Simsbury. Her many other volunteer activities included Girl Scouts, the League of Women Voters as well as active involvement in many church-centered activities including teaching and leading the effort to establish Covenant to Care at Prospect United Methodist Church, Bristol. She treasured the memory of summer vacations with her family at their cottage in Madaket on the Island of Nantucket. Along with her husband, Pat led travel-study tours to Israel, Egypt, and Jordan; a Wesley Study Tour in England and Scotland; a Christian Heritage tour to the Oberammergau Passion Play in Bavaria including touring in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland; and an American Heritage tour to the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, and the Yukon Territory in Canada In addition to her husband of (A ware William Canada. In addition to her husband of 64 years, William, she leaves her son, Richard Seth Barnes of Reunion, Florida; daughter-in-law Maureen Barnes of Avon; her daughter, Rebecca Barnes Reppucci and her husband, Steven, of Lakeville, Massachusetts; four grandchil-dren, Christopher Seth and Emma Nicole Barnes, Anthony Steven and Zachary William Reppucci. She was predeceased by her son, Ronald William Barnes and her sister, Joan (Corcoran) Mulligan. She also leaves her brother-in-law, James Clarkson Barnes and his wife, Ruth, of Glenwood Springs, Colorado, her sister-in-law, Kathryn Barnes Dube and her husband, John, of Bristol; five nieces and a nephew; and several grand-nieces and grand-nephews. A Memorial Service will be held at the Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center, 301 Country Club Road, Avon on March 12, at 11:00 a.m. with a reception to follow. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Memorial contributions may be made to American Red Cross Disaster Relief, PO Box 37839, Boone, IA 50037-0839. For directions or condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Good, Justin Davis



Justin D. Good, age 39, passed passed away Thursday, February 17th, after a brief Thursday, but courageous battle with cancer.

Justin was born in Exeter, NH, attended public schools in Farmington, CT, graduated high school from Kimball Union Academy in New Hampshire, and attended college at both Evergreen State

University in Olympia, WA and Southern Connecticut State University, where he was working on a degree in library science. He was employed by the Cora J. Belden Library in Rocky Hill, CT and the Berlin-Peck Memorial Library in Berlin, CT, jobs that he loved.

Justin was a gentle soul with a passion for books, poetry, animals and music, but who also had a wonderful sense of humor and enjoyed the silliness of professional wrestling. He is survived by his sister Katie, his parents Peter and Jane, his maternal grandmother, many aunts, uncles and cousins.

His family wishes to thank the staff on the 6th floor at UConn John Dempsey Hospital, and the hospice team at accentCare, who provided continuous care and compassion for Justin. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 12th at 10 a.m., at Memorial United Methodist Church, 867 West Avon Road, Avon CT. In lieu of flowers, please consider honoring Justin's love of animals and his concern for this fragile earth by making a donation in his memory to the Wildlife Conservation Society at https://secure.wcs.org/donate/make-tribute-gift

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Stories live on. Tell theirs.

Share your loved one's story placeanad.courant.com/obituaries

Hartford Courant

Legacy.com



OBITUARIES

Banning, Irving



Irving Banning, 89, beloved husband of the late Alice (Call) Banning, of Townshend, VT, nand previously from South Newfane, VT and Windsor Locks, CT passed away peacefully on February 17, 2022, at Valley Cares Assisted Living in Townshend, VT. He was born in Hartford, CT, son of the late Leon and Ella (Larson) Banning. He met the love of his life, Alice, while



Glastonbury High School. He served proudly as a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War from 1951-54. Following his service, he married Alice in

1956, began his 22-year career as a produce buyer for First National Food Stores (Finast), and later in whole-sale produce sales for Pioneer Fruit and Connecticut sale produce sales for Pioneer Fruit and Connecticut Celery in Hartford, CT. In semi-retirement, he worked for GS Precision in Brattleboro, VT. Irving was a jack-of-all-trades with many talents, especially building beautifully crafted furniture. As an Irish tenor, he had a passion for singing, performing solos while attending Glastonbury High School, in the Marines and every Sunday 'The Lord's Prayer' for the residents at Valley Cares Assisted Living. He was a sports enthusiast, and a loyal fan of the New York Yankees and the Giants. In his early years, he enjoyed golfing, billiards and bowling with his co-workers. In his later years, a treasured memory was traveling to Ireland with his beloved, Alice. He was a communicant of St. Michael's Church in Brattleboro, VT. Brattleboro, VT.

He will be lovingly remembered by his children, Kevin Banning and his wife Jamila of Westbrook, CT, Kathy Beeman and her husband Barry of Pinehurst, NC, William Banning of Manchester, CT, Linda Krikawa of Weatogue, CT and his grandchildren, Alicyn Beeman, William Banning, Jr., Jessica Banning, Margaret Banning, Bruce Lauzier, Evan Lauzier, Katherine (Krikawa) Schafer and Connor Krikawa. He was predeceased by his brothers, Joseph Banning, Ernest Banning and his beloved sonin-law Thomas Krikawa. He also leaves behind many wonderful nieces and nephews.

Family may call on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, from 9:30-10 a.m., followed by friends and family from 10-11 a.m., at the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 50 Naubuc Avenue, Glastonbury, CT. Reflections on Irving's life may be shared during this time. A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. in the funeral home followed by a graveside service at St. Augustine Cemetery, Hopewell Road, South Glastonbury. Masks are required in the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Valley Cares Inc., P.O. Box 341, Townshend, VT 05353 and online at valleycares.org, or to Grace Cottage Hospital, P.O. Box 1, Townshend, VT 05353 and online at gracecottage.org. Irving's family wishes to extend heartfelt thanks for the care he received as a resident of Valley Cares and while an inpatient at Grace Cottage, and to his devoted friends (and brother-in-law) Tom Fusco and Jack Cable, especially in Irving's later years. To extend condolences, please visit farleysullivan.com.

Farley-Sullivan

Funeral Home

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Guay, Donald R.



Donald R. Guay, age 80, devoted husband of Valerie (Desrosiers) Guay for 61 years, died on Saturday, February 19, 2022. He was born in Hartford, son of the late William Guay and Jennie (Wilson) Devoe. Don was proud to serve as a medic and paratrooper in the 101st Airborne division at Fort Campbell, KY and was a "Screaming Eagle" through through and through. The soldiers of

the 101st Airborne have maintained since their beginning to have a "Rendezvous with Destiny". We were moved by the irony of Don's own personal rendezvous with destiny. He earned his paratrooper wings from the 101st on 2/19/1960 and left this earth on eagle's wings exactly 62 years later, on 2/19/2022.

After his military service, Don worked for many years at H.O.Penn in Newington. He also earned a degree in computer technology from Hartford State Technical College and worked as a computer analyst at the Newington Veteran's Hospital for many years, retiring in 2005. Don and Val enjoyed living in Newington for more than 50 years, supplemented by many retirement winters in Fort Myers, Florida with family and new friends. Don especially loved spending time with his children and grandchildren. Some of his favorite activities included bowling, playing dominoes, watching the Red Sox and UCONN Women's Basketball games. He also participated in many veterans' groups and parades in Newington and around CT over the years.

In addition to his wife, Don is survived by his children, Mary Beth (Mike) Maluccio, Donna (Mike) Arcentales, and Laura Gambino; his grandchildren, Kelly (Kevin) Burke, Grace Maluccio, Hannah & Tommy Arcentales, and AJ & Heather Gambino; his brother Doug (Helen) Guay; his Desrosiers in-laws: Jim (Kathy), Bill (Linda), Bob (Christa) and Sharon; Devoe in-laws, Lorie and Nicole; and many nieces, and nephews. He also leaves many lifelong neighbors and friends, and his paternal relatives from Maine.

We want to thank the staff at The Residence at Ferry Park for the loving care they gave Don in his last two years. Relatives and friends are invited to greet the family at the Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Avenue, on Monday, February 28th, from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. Funeral services will begin on Tuesday morning, March 1st at 8:45 a.m. at the funeral home to St. Mary's Church, Newington, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am. Burial with Military Honors will follow in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. In lieu of flowers please consider donating to the Volunteer Services at Newington Veterans Administration Hospital, 555 Willard Avenue, Newington, CT 06111. To leave an on-line expression of sympathy for the family, please visit: www.duksa.net.



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Piotrowicz, Wanda (Trymbulak)

Wanda Piotrowicz, 91, of Covington Twp, PA passed away on February 10, 2022. She was born in Poland, lived in Hartford, CT for many years and retired from Travelers Insurance. Wanda was predeceased by her beloved husband Antoni Piotrowicz, daughter Teresa Roy, brother Marty Trymbulak. She will be greatly missed by her daughters Barbara Marchessault and Krystyna Piotrowicz of PA a son Antoni Piotrowicz and Krystyna Piotrowicz of PA, a son Antoni Piotrowicz and daughter-in-law Diane Boutin of CT. She leaves a sister Stasia DeMichele, a brother Peter Trymbulak, and a niece Danusia DeMichele of CT. She also leaves four grandchildren, Tony, Jennee, Kate, Lindsay, three great grandchildren Hennessey, Merrick, Aria also niece and nephews Brittany, Myles, Connor. A Celebration of Life will be held at Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford, CT in the

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Craffey, Gretchen (Russell)



Gretchen (Russell) Craffey, 86, died peacefully in her sleep Friday, February 18, 2022. Fiercely independent and sharp of mind to the end, her life was both full and fulfilling. Gretchen was pro-foundly thankful. Although slowed down by injury during her last two weeks with us, she was especially grateful for the opportunity to visit

with family before passing. She died surrounded by the love of her children, grandchildren and a great-grandson. Born in Cambridge, MA, Gretchen was the daughter of William and Mary (White) Russell. Gretchen lived more than 60 years in Simsbury, CT, a town she loved dearly.

Gretchen graduated from the College of New Rochelle and the University of Saint Joseph, completing her masters while raising a family. She loved her work as a counselor for the Bachelor of General Studies program at UCONN. She was an active volunteer at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church in Hartford and supported The House of Bread and Habitat for Humanity. She enjoyed her family, thinking, speaking, listening, walking, writing poetry, Tai Chi and reading. She loved the trees, the birds, the wind drying her sheets, riding her bicycle, and all things small. She cherished her close friends, who cherished her back.

Gretchen is predeceased by her beloved former husband, Jack Craffey, her sister, Mary Ann Venti, and her son, John Craffey. She is survived by her children, Alicia Craffey of Simsbury, Alanna Craffey and husband Dave Lurvey of South Berwick, ME, William Craffey of Martha's Vineyard, Mary Sciano and husband Paul Sciano of Marlborough, and Patrick Craffey and partner Kelly Su Lim of West Hartford. She is survived by her brother Fr. William Russell, SJ of Weston, MA, her sister Margery Lok, of South Dartmouth, MA, and her brothers Lude Russell of Kingston, MA, and Gregory Russell of Jude Russell of Kingston, MA, and Gregory Russell of Westford, MA. She will be dearly missed by her seven grandchildren, Hannah Schriefer, Abby Schriefer, Ben Schriefer, Liam Craffey, Maya Craffey, May Sciano and Joe Sciano. Her spirit lives on in all of us, including her great-grandchild, Sage.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 am on Saturday, February 26 at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church, 285 Church Street in Hartford. Please note mask guidelines on the Church website, spsact.org, where a live-stream link to the service will be available via Streamspot. We request the unvaccinated make use of the live-stream option. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to The House of Bread, 27 Chestnut St, Hartford, 06120 or Hartford Catholic Worker, 18 Clark St, Harford, CT 06120. Visit Gretchen's "Book of Memories" at www.vincentfuneralhome.com for online tributes.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Greenwood, Jr., Herbert A.



Herbert A. Greenwood, Jr., 89, of East Hartford, husband of the late Marion (Shedrick) Greenwood, died Monday, February 21, 2022 at Middlesex Hospital. Born June 15, 1932 in Portchester, NY, son of the late Herbert A., Sr. and Elizabeth (Kennedy) Greenwood, he had lived in East Hartford since 1958. Prior to his retirement he was an auto mechanic for Jones almost 60 years. Herb was a member of the

American Legion and the VFW, was an army veteran of the Korean War and was a fan of the UCONN women's and men's basketball teams. He is survived by his 3 children, Brian Greenwood of Torrington, Karen Johnson and her husband Donald of Ellington, William Greenwood of East Hartford, a sister Helen Small of Manchester, 3 grandchildren and their spouses Brett Johnson of Vernon, Larry and SueLee Balmer of TN, Justin and Akeysha Frawley of SC and 6 great grandchildren, Zeke, Xander, Chace, Gemma, Greyson and Emmett. He was predeceased by a sister Elizabeth Spicer and a brother John Greenwood. A mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday Feb.28 at 10am in Ss. Isidore and Maria Parish at St Paul Church, 2577 Main St., Glastonbury. Burial will follow with military honors in Silver Lane Cemetery, East Hartford. Friends may call at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury on Sunday Feb. 27 from 2-4pm. For online condolences please visit www. mulryanfh.com



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

LeBrun, Ann E.

Ann Elizabeth (Henneberry) LeBrun, 94, widow of Albert J. LeBrun, Sr., died on February 18, 2022 in Leland, North Carolina. Born in Concord, New Hampshire on April 19, 1927, she was the youngest daughter of Joseph Henneberry and Mary (Roberts) Henneberry Silver. On September 1, 1947, she married Albert LeBrun, brother of her best friend Rose (LeBrun) Sawtelle, at Immaculate Conception Church in Penacook, New Hampshire. They were married for 67 years until his

death on February 5, 2015 and had five children. In 1956, Ann and Al moved to Hartford, Connecticut, where they raised their three sons and two daughters. She was employed by the CT Dept. of Transportation. In 1990, they retired to Florida and lived in the West Palm Beach area for 25 years. In 2018, she moved to North Carolina and made her home with her daughter Joanne and son-in-law Barry Donaghue. She leaves four children: Stephen LeBrun of Chula Vista, California; Joanne (LeBrun) Donaghue and her

husband Barry Donaghue of Leland, North Carolina; Mary (LeBrun) Burkhardt and her husband J. Gregory Burkhardt of Downers Grove, Illinois; and Thomas LeBrun and his wife Kathleen (O'Neil) LeBrun of North Fort Meyers, Florida and Stafford Springs, Connecticut, as well as Kathleen's children, Kevin Webster and his wife Heather of Berlin; Jason Webster and his wife Johanna of Newington; and Rebecca Martinez and her husband Javier of Plainville, all in Connecticut.

She also leaves three grandchildren: Erin Donaghue of Brooklyn, New York; Hannah (Burkhardt) Stefanisin and her husband Steven of California, Maryland; and Emma Burkhardt of San Francisco; and five step-grandchildren in Connecticut. She is survived by her brother-in-law, Raymond LeBrun and his wife Carol of Summerfield, Florida; her cousin Eugene Callahan of Concord, New Hampshire; and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her son, Albert LeBrun, Jr., (Chip) of Hartford, Connecticut; two sisters, Marian and Eva Henneberry; aunts and uncles including her beloved aunt Catherine (Roberts) Morrill; and muchadmired friend, Sister M. Thomasina Pheur, for whom

her youngest son was named. Ann will be remembered for her quick wit and delightful laugh, patriotism, adoration of children (and cats), and deep love for her husband, children and grandchildren. Services will be private. Ann's ashes will be buried with those of her husband and son in Connecticut. Friends may make a donation in Ann's memory to Lower Cape Fear LifeCare in Wilmington, NC, to whom the family is deeply grateful for their care and caring, or a charity

of their choice. Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

jisit the obituary section on courant.com to share memories of loved ones.

OBITUARIES



Irene Julia Haberern, loving wife of 40 years to Eric Michael Haberern, passed away peacefully Friday February 18, 2022, in her home in Coventry, CT surrounded by family. Born in Manchester, CT on February 12, 1935, to Francis and Stephinie Peterson, she raised her family as a resident of Coventry, CT for over 50 years.

Irene was predeceased by her husband Eric Haberern, daughter Debra Myles, and sister Sally Parciak. Irene is survived by her sister Diane Ursin of South Windsor; her beloved sons Eric Haberern and his wife Brenda of Lebanon and David Haberern of Coventry; six grandchildren: Jaclyn Damonte, Michael Myles, David Haberern II, Jennifer Jaquith, Stephanie Veturis, and Brandon Haberern and seven great-grandchildren: Sophia and Greyson Damonte, Charlie and Sadie Jaquith, Valerie, Thorsten, and Titus Veturis and many nieces and nephews.

Haberern, Irene

Irene graduated from Manchester High School in 1954 She drove the local school bus and worked as a chef for Manchester Memorial Hospital. In her younger years, Irene enjoyed riding her horse, knitting, gardening, arguing politics, cooking for her family, and working on the family farm. She was an avid birdwatcher and a lover of all animals.

A private service will be held at the family's request. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in her memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. For online condolences and guest book, please visit www. carmonfuneralhome.com



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Jack Jr, Christopher Bryant



Christopher Bryant Jack Jr., of Smithfield NC passed away on February 8, 2022. Christopher was born in Hartford CT on September 24, 1983, to Ellen Walden and Christopher Jack Sr.

He leaves behind six chil-Kristina Ryan-Jack, Ryan-Jack, Brooklyn Kayla Jack, Kendrick, Kassidy and Kai Jack, Dominique Wright

his longtime girlfriend; and his parents Ellen Walden of Stuart FL and Christopher Jack Sr of Little River SC. Christopher received an associate degree in Business Administration from Wake Tech in Raleigh NC. He was a young man with numerous talents and trades. Christopher was trained and worked in CT as a plumber, but later found his true love of carpentry where he could create, build, and see projects be completed. Christopher also had an amazing talent for drawing bringing Fenway Park to life in one of his children's bedrooms. He will be deeply missed by his family and friends – a life gone far too soon. A memorial service will be planned for a later date.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Lydon, Judy Ann (Grimaldi)



Judy Ann (Grimaldi) Lydon, widower of Martin I Lydon and longtime resident of Bolton, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on January 25, 2022. Judy was born January 14, 1951, to the late Umberto Grimaldi and "Vivian" (Nordgren) Windsor, Connecticut. Judy was a devoted wife and lov

ing mother. She also maintained a career as a hairdresser and worked at Reflections on Main Street in East Hartford, Connecticut for many years. She loved animals, especially her dog Chaos, and was a talented artist leaving behind a collection of her artwork for all to enjoy. In her free time, Judy enjoyed painting, drawing, gardening, knitting, sewing, crafting, puzzles, and spending time with her family. Judy is survived by her loving children, Jennifer A. (Lydon) Reisig and husband Kurt B. Reisig of Sandwich, Massachusetts, and Thomas Martin Lydon and wife Renee Lydon of St. Augustine, Florida; four grandchildren, Avery Lydon, Torin Lydon, Abigail Reisig, and Gwyneth Reisig; sister, Linda Dixon; nephew David Dixon; and many cousins. In addition to her husband and parents, Judy was predeceased by her Aunt Frida Nordgren and nephew, Michael Dixon. Judy was a very special woman and will be missed dearly. Visiting hours will be Saturday, February 26, 2022 at Newkirk & Whitney Funeral Home located at 318 Burnside Avenue, East Hartford, Connecticut 06108 from 9:00am to 12:00pm followed by a funeral service at 12:00 noon at Newkirk and Whitney. Immediately following, Judy's committal will be held at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Enfield, Connecticut. To sign the on line guestbook go to www.NewkirkandWhitney.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

White, Carol Ann (Hoffman)



Carol Ann White, 83, of Ft. Myers, passed away February 12, with her loving son, Kevin, by her side. Born in Sharon, CT, July 6, 1938, she was the daughter of the late Charles D. Sr. and Cecelia (Hanley) Hoffman. Carol lived in Litchfield, CT throughout her childhood and was educated in local schools. She raised her family in New Britain, CT

before moving to Simsbury. Carol relocated to the warmer weather in Ft. Myers in 2003. Carol took great oride in her various careers including manager of the CT Room at G.Fox, analyst at Travelers, and ultimately finding a passion in home care care, first at McLean in Simsbury and then in Fort Myers at Myerlee Manor,

where she was the administrator.
Carol was predeceased by her siblings, Marie
Sammarco, Charles Jr, George, William and James, and
niece Pattie Boutin. She leaves behind sisters Lucille (Milt) Ingersoll, Sister Donna Hoffman CSJ, and Patricia (James) LeJeune, brother Patrick Hoffman, and sisterin-law Maria Hoffman. Carol also leaves her beloved son and daughter-in-law, Kevin and Shamis White of West Springfield, MA and her cherished grandchildren, Liam, Eibhlinn, and Declan. Carol found immense joy in all activities involving her grandchildren. They were her pride and joy. She also leaves son Bruce (Elizabeth) of

Carol's family wishes to thank her special group of friends from Forest Lake as well as the staff at Gulf Coast Medical Center, Lee Health Rehabilitation, and Hope Hospice of Cape Coral for the kindness and compassion shown to Carol. Memorial donations may be made to St. Thomas School, West Springfield.

A Funeral Mass will be held on March 3, 2022 at 11am at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 47 Pine Street, West Springfield, MA 01089. There will be no calling hours and burial will be private.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

McCabe, Martha



Martha was born in Hartford on October 7, 1942 to Mary Louise Wilkins McClure and Arnold McClure. Her mother later married E. Curtis Ambler and resided in Newington.

She spent the first 12 years of her life in Portland living in a house that her great grandfather built. She and parents, and brother William, then moved to Newington

where she became active in many student activities. Martha received a Bachelor's degree In English from Wake Forest and a Masters in Theater from the University of Michigan. She had the opportunity to work in many summer stock theaters where she met several actors who later became famous.

She lived in Denver where she held several administrative positions. She later was able to travel to Naples. Italy where she was the Chairperson of the Air Force Wives Committee which helped new Air Force wives acclimate to life on the base. She had the opportunity to live in various European countries such as Turkey and Cyprus

Ending her travels, she returned to Newington where she got involved in Republican politics running for Town Council and Board of Education. It was on the Fair Rent Commission that she met her present husband James McCabe

One of her greatest thrills was moving back to Portland and buying back the house where she spent her youth. Martha was very family oriented as was shown by her treating everyone in her outrageously extended family as her immediate family being a mentor to many of them. She was persistent in arranging family get together. She was an avid reader, as is evidenced by the thousands of books in her library. She also was a lover of crossword puzzles You could always find her working on two or three at a time. Martha enthusiastically looked forward to her annual trips with Jim to Manhattan and the Berkshires. She was an avid fan of train travel. She and Jim criss crossed the US and Canada by rai.

Martha worked as Administrative Assistant for the Connecticut Correctional Ombudsman for 15 years, which dealt with Inmate complaints against the Department of Corrections. Martha then spent time working for the state Housing Department Deputy Commissioner. She then went on to be the Administrative Assistant to the Hartford Ballet Artistic Director until it disbanded. She often opened her house to Choreographers who were in Hartford on a temporary assignment. She then took on the ordeal of working for her husband in his financial advisory firm. She leaves behind her husband James, brother William (Edna), step brothers Tracy (Nancy) and Curtis (Susan) Ambler, and step sister Rosalind (Joseph) Greco. As well as many nieces and nephews: Leonard (Kristina) Engel, Thomas (Lourdes) Engel, Kristin (Paul) Muratori, Melissa (John) Shaw, (whom she considered her kids), David (Lisa) Ambler, Paul (Deb) Ambler, Timothy (Cristina) Johnson, Michael (Dayna) Johnson, Ryan (Christina) Pomeroy, Brendan (Nicole) Pomeroy, Brett (Amanda) Ambler, Devon Ambler, Marie (Jon) Saporito, as well as many great nephews and nieces. She also leaves her two cousins Donald (Barbara) Goodrich and Allan (Teresa) Goodrich. Graveside services will be held on Saturday (February 26) at 11 am in St. Mary's Cemetery Portland. Friends may call at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home 231 Main St. Portland on Friday (February 25) from 5-7 pm. In lieu of flowers memorial donations can be made to your favorite pet

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Manfreda, Enid M. (Johnson)



Manfreda, 92, of Windsor, beloved wife of 59 years to John J. Manfreda, passed away at her home on Monday, February 21, 2022. Enid was born on November 16, 1929, in New Haven, daughter to the late Harry James and Edith Rose (Luppi) Johnson. Enid attended Hamden High

School where she graduated with the Class of 1947. Upon her completion of high school, she continued her education at Purdue University where in 1951 she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics. For many years, Enid was employed as an administrative clerk for the Cigna Insurancé Company before her retirement in 1987. Enid had a very creative and artistic mind. She loved to paint as well as collect keepsakes, knickknacks, antiques, and jewelry. She enjoyed traveling to different shops and stores looking for collectables for her family and home. Enid had a very outgoing personality, enjoyed meeting new people, and built many long-lasting friendships. Enid's greatest joy were the children in her life. She loved to spend time and have adventures with her grandnieces, grandnephews and most especially with her grandchildren. Her abundance

of love was profound, and her memory will forever be cherished in the hearts of her family and friends. In addition to her husband, Enid is survived by her three children, Kathy Juliano and her husband Tony of Granby, John Manfreda and his wife Lydia of Columbus, OH, and Patrick Manfreda and his wife Carol of Penfield, NY; her four grandchildren, Elise Juliano of Malden, MA, Krista Dobransky and her husband Brandon of Cornelius, NC, Christopher Juliano of Cromwell and Sean Manfreda of Penfield, NY; her brother Harry Johnson of South Windsor; her brother-in-law Joseph Manfreda and his wife Vicky of Phoenix, AZ as well as many nieces, nephwife Vicky of Phoenix, AZ as well as many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, great-grandnieces and great-grand nephews. She was predeceased by her parents and her two sisters, Marge Joerger and Kathleen Loring. Enid's family would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to Amos Boateng, a very special friend to the family, for his care and compassion to John and Enid for the past four years.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Monday. February 28, 2022, at St. Damien of

a.m. on Monday, February 28, 2022, at St. Damien of Molokai Parish- St. Joseph Church, 1747 Poquonock Ave., Windsor. A time of visitation will be held prior to the Mass from 9:00-10:30 a.m. at the Carmon Poquonock Funeral Home, 1816 Poquonock Ave., Windsor. Burial with committal prayers will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery, Windsor. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Hartford HealthCare Center for a Healthy Aging for Dementia Related Services – 80 Meriden Ave, Southington CT 06489 or online at hhcseniorservices.org. To leave an online message of condolence for her family, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com.



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries



Ganem, Joseph



Joseph Richard Ganem, 81, of Barkhamsted, CT passed away Friday, February 18, 2022 at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital.

He was born in Waterbury, CT, on February 19, 1940, and grew up in Torrington. Joe was a lifelong golfer, scholar, and teacher. He enjoyed the outdoors, sharing

his love of hunting, fishing, and boating with his children, nephews and nieces. A longtime member of the Torrington Country Club. Joe was known not only for his sportsmanship, but also for his many holes-in-one. He also loved playing cards, watching baseball and basketball, and spending time with friends and family.

A graduate of St. Bonaventure University (BA) and University of Hartford (MA), Joe is renowned for his remarkable career as a professor at Northwestern Connecticut Community College, where he taught business for over 30 years, as well as his accounting and tax practice. Joe was also a proud veteran of the U.S. Army, and for a period of time, part owner of Sports Palace in Torrington.

Despite his numerous accomplishments, Joe is best remembered as a man who took great pride in his family. He is preceded in death by his father, Louis Ganem; his mother, Sophie Milak Ganem; brothers, Terry Ganem and Louis Ganem; and godson, Richard Milak. He is survived by his wife, Linda Ganem; daughter Anne (Jonathan) DeMichiel; son Paul (Lauren) Ganem; stepson, Jeff (Cheryl) Bentley; grandchildren Duncan and Sophie DeMichiel; nephews Donald Ganem, Louis Ganem, and Billy Ganem; niece Nancy Ganem Bond-Webster; beloved cousins Kathy Bournique and Cindy Casella; and several other extended family members and friends whose conversation and fellowship he always welcomed.

Receiving of friends and family will be held Friday, February 25, 5:00-7:00 PM at Phalen Funeral Home, 285 Migeon Ave., Torrington. Funeral service will be held Saturday, February 26, at 11:00 AM at St. Maron's Church, 613 Main St., Torrington.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Pearlstein, Donald Michael

Donald Michael Pearlstein (August 5, 1934 - February 22, 2022), born in Brooklyn, NY was a lifelong New Yorker, creative, toy designer, and family man. Married 67 years, he is survived by his wife Patricia, three daughters, Caren and Stuart Hosansky, Jessica and Eric Zachs, and Nina and Harold Fetner, eight grandchildren, Aaron Hosansky and Laura Bagley, Stephanie and IV Doran Benjamin and Paige Zachs, Jacob, and Kate JV Doran, Benjamin and Paige Zachs, Jacob and Kate Zachs, Zoë Zachs, Samantha Fetner, Alex Fetner, and Emma Fetner and great grandchildren, Ezra and Levi Hosansky, Nora Doran, and Louis Zachs.

Donald, colloquially known as "D," loved a good joke, political banter (as long as the opinion was noted on MSNBC), an indulgent meal, and a vodka chilled with a twist. He lived and breathed New York. Whether visiting museums or a show, D lived his life to the fullest, never wanting to leave the city. For the bulk of his career, D was a toy designer, who felt his purpose was to bring others joy. He was a Veteran of the United States Army serving in the Korean War as a Paratrooper.

More than anything, he loved his family. Hosting the Jewish holidays or bringing in Chinese food, his biggest joy was when he spent time with his wife, children, and grandchildren. He would always note, "Our friends are so jealous of the times we get to have with our family. They also cannot believe the dirty jokes.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, February 24 at 11:00 AM at Riverside Memorial Chapel, 180 W 76th St, New York, NY 10023. A ZOOM link will be shared. Shiva will be at 100 United National Plaza following the burial and on Friday from 1:00 to 5:00pm. Contributions may be made to Dignity Grows at www.dignitygrows.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Starkes, John A.

John August Starkes, 81, formerly of West Hartford, beloved husband of Janet (Lopaus) Starkes, passed away on Monday, February 14, 2022.

Born in Hartford, he was a resident of West Hartford most of his life. John was a member of the West Hartford Masonic Lodge, and served as an honorary past Master, and organist.

John was a lifetime member of the Emanuel Lutheran Church, Hartford. He served as Superintendent of the Sunday School, he was a member of the Home Builders Association and a member of the Church Council.

*The Memorial Service has been RESCEDULED and will be Friday, March 4, 2022 at 1:00 pm. at Emanuel Lutheran Church. Burial will follow in the Church Lutheran Church. Burial will follow in the Church Garden. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Emanuel Lutheran Church, 311 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. Online condolences may be made at www.SheehanHilbornBreen.com

> Sheehan Hilborn Breen FUNERAL HOME

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Wice, Marshall



It is with tremendous sadness that our family announces the passing of Marshall "Maish" Wice of West Hartford, on Saturday, February 19, 2022, just three days shy of his 99th birthday. Born in Hartford, he was the middle child of Ben and Suzie (Katz) Wice. He was pre-deceased by his older brother, Raymond, and his younger

brother, Sumner "Jackie". Marshall grew up in the North End of Hartford where he lived until he and his family moved to West Hartford in June 1972. Marshall was a loving and devoted husband for 58 years to the true love of his life, Florence "Funny" Wice, who predeceased him in June of 2008. Maish had a love of motorcycles and he and Funny shared riding together to their favorite places including Lake George, New York. He was a loving and caring father to Susan Rubin of Manchester, Brian Wice of Houston, TX., Steven Wice of Ft. Lauderdale, FL., and grandfather to Andrew Ratches, Jessica (Patrick) Harrison and Ashley (Kevin) Azizi. Maish's pride and joy were his five great-grand-children, Weston Ratches, Madelyn Harrison, and Jackson, Hudson and Mason Aziz. Because of his strong sense of patriotism to his country, Marshall enlisted in the U.S. Army in November of 1940 at the age of 17 to fight in WWII. He was a decorated member of the U.S. Fifth Army receiving several service medals including a Purple Heart when wounded in the line of duty. Marshall fought valiantly during the Battle of Anzio in Italy. He was honorably discharged in June of 1945. The family held a private graveside service with full military honors, at Fairview Cemetery in West Hartford. May his memory be a blessing. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Gary Sinise Foundation

or K9s for Warriors. Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

OBITUARIES

Pringle, Ronald "Ron"



Ronald Mark Pringle, born December 16, 1935, passed away surrounded and comforted by family on Saturday February 19, 2022 at the age of 87. Son of George and Laura Pringle (deceased) and brother of Robert Pringle of Lakeland, FL, Ron is survived by his loving partner of 39 years, Beryl Piper, his sons Gregory Pringle of Santa Fe, NM., Lon Pringle

of Sterling, VA., and Joshua Pringle of Ormond Beach,

of Sterling, VA., and Joshua Pringle of Ormond Beach, FL. Additionally, Ron is survived by Mr. Carlos Lopez, his son Alayas, and grandchildren Ricky and Joshua (Greg), Emilie and Natalie (Lon), Emma and Evan (Josh) and his two nieces, Wendy and Leslie.

Born in Weatogue, Ron graduated from Simsbury High School, where he was a member of the 1952 Class "S" State Championships Boys Basketball Team. Attended Teachers College of Connecticut (now CCSU) where he played basketball from 1953-1957. Served with honor in the United States Army 1957. Served with honor in the United States Army 1957-1958. Taught in both Litchfield, where he led the Boys Basketball team to the Class "S" State Title in 1959. Assistant Men's Basketball coach at CCSU under William "Bill" Detrick and as an assistant Men's Soccer Coach under John Webster. Head Women's Softball coach at CCSU (1978-1995). Joined the Girls Basketball staff at New Britain under Beryl Piper and went on to win three Girls Class "LL" State Championships. Member of the New Britain Athletics Hall of Fame, the Central Connecticut State University Athletics Hall of Fame, the Connecticut Women's Softball Hall of Fame, and a recipient of the Harrison J. Kaiser Alumni Service

His impact on the people he taught, coached, mentored, and interacted with on a daily basis was immeasurable. He was a pillar of each community in which he lived throughout the course of his life and strove to instill in his family, students, and athletes the principles of hard work, dedication, respect, honor, and courage. His logacy will continue with all those whose courage. His legacy will continue with all those whose lives he touched.

A Celebration of Ron's Life will be held on at Farmington Gardens, 999 Farmington Avenue, Farmington, CT on Tuesday March 8, 2022 from 5-8 pm. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made directly to the Women's Soccer program or the Men's Baseball program of Central Connecticut State University in Ron's honor to CCSU Athletic Department, 1615 Stapley Street, New Britain Athletic Department, 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050.. Carlson Funeral Home of New Britain is assisting with the arrangements. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at www.carlsonfuneralhome.com.



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Sanborn, Jr., Frank L.



Frank Leslie Sanborn Jr., 98, died peacefully on February 21. He was the beloved husband of the late Lorraine Fournier who passed away on

January 3, 2017. Born September 6, 1923, the second child of F. Leslie

the second child of F. Leslie Sanborn and Bertha W. Stemmler of Middletown, CT. A lifelong resident of Portland, CT. Frank attended local schools and enjoyed life growing up in a small town. From 1943 through 1945 he proudly served his country during WWII as a member of the US Army Air Corp. Frank flew in 35 combat missions on a B-24 Liberator all over Europe from a base in England. On October 14, 1950, Frank married the love of his life Lorraine, whom he met at a dance hall in Hartford. Frank loved Anne Murray's rendition of the song "Could I have This Dance," and said it perfectly embodied how he felt when Lorraine and he shard that first dance. Together they built their home on Rose first dance. Together they built their home on Rose Hill Rd. with the help of family and friends. Frank was employed by the power company for 40 years starting at the Hartford Electric Light Co. and ending with Northeast Utilities. Frank was a former member of the Hemlock Grange, American Legion, and Portland Fire Dept. No. 2. Frank was also a proud member of the Portland Exchange Club and contributed many hours at the club grounds by the Conn. River. Frank loved singing in the Glee Club, fishing, gardening, playing cards, golfing, and woodworking in his shop. When his children were young the family camped up and down the Eastern Seaboard; where fond memories were made and many friendships formed. Later in life Frank and Lorraine traveled to Hawaii, Europe, England, and the Canadian Rockies.

He is survived by his son, Gary Sanborn, and his wife, June Valli, his daughter, Gail Phillips, and her husband, John Phillips, all of East Hampton, Connecticut, and his son, Dennis Sanborn, of Portland, Connecticut. Grandsons, Michael (Heather) Phillips, and Steven (Maggie) Phillips of East Hampton, CT. Five great grandchildren; Madison, Coen, Hunter, Ashley, and Aubrey. A brother, William (Harriet) Sanborn of Portland, CT, and a sister, Lorraine (Joseph) Rizzo of Wilton, CT, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a brother Peter, and sisters, Barbara, Constance, Elizabeth, and Rosemary. The family would like to thank his former caregiver, Rebekah Tosto, and his primary Physician, Gianpaolo Rufo D.O. for their loving care and friendship. The funeral will be held on Monday, February 28th at 9 am from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St. Portland. Followed by a mass of Christian burial in St. Mary's church at 10:30 am. Burial with full military honors will be in the State Veteran's Cemetery in Middletown. Friends may call at the funeral home on Sunday, February 27th from 5-7 pm.

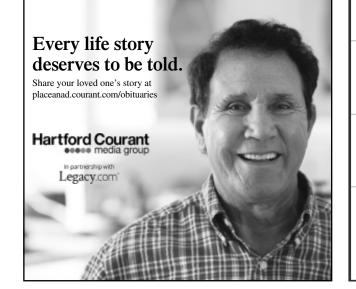
Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of MICHEAL T. DUBAY 7/19/1970 - 2/24/1996

A smile for all a heart of gold one of the best the world could hold never selfish always kind these memories you left behind in our hearts you will always stay love and remembered everyday

Love you and Miss you, Your family



Share memories, express condolences, and celebrate life in the obituary section on courant.com.



Ask us for our listing of emblems and how we can help you personalize your loved one's obituary.































































Hartford Courant courant.com

Hartford Courant

CONNECTICUT

COURANT.COM/CONNECTICUT

Two brothers fatally shot in Hartford

By Jesse Leavenworth Hartford Courant

Two Hartford brothers were found shot to death in the city Tuesday night, police said.

Leon Kelley of 40 Cleveland Ave., who turned 46 on Tuesday, and Charles Kelley, 47, of 21 Putnam Heights, were found with multiple gunshot wounds inside 161 Westminster St., police spokesman Lt. Aaron Boisvert said

Officers responded to the scene on a report of two people shot at about 6 p.m. The men were taken to Saint Francis Hospital, where both were pronounced dead. Police believe one person shot both men, Boisvert said. He said Leon's birthday had nothing to do with the shooting.

Boisvert also said police are looking into why the brothers were at the Westminster Street residence.

Shante Kelley, the victims' sister, said the

two brothers had gone to see a friend on Westminster Street when they were shot. She said Leon and Charles were close. Both had many run-ins with police and had been in and out of jail, Shante Kelley said.

"They were not perfect; they were street guys," she said.

Both men had children. Leon was living in the house that their mother had left him, Shante Kelley said. She said she talked to him for about two hours on Tuesday, wishing him a happy birthday, but he seemed to be angry and upset.

"I said I was gonna pray that God released that anger," Kelley said.

The investigation remains active and ongoing, Boisvert said. Anyone with any information is asked to call the HPD Tip Line at 860-722-TIPS (8477).

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com.

Tension in Ukraine, inflation at gas pumps

Russia's moves could impact fuel costs in US; motorists in state could see \$4 a gallon

By Kenneth R. Gosselin and Stephen Singer Hartford Courant

As Russia moves to the brink of war with Ukraine, tensions engulfing a region half a world away are hitting close to home in Connecticut: prices at the gas pump are ricing

Inflation has taken a toll as consumers notice when they fill their tanks. The Ukraine crisis is likely to take even more from the wallet, with gas easily rising to above \$4 a gallon, experts say.

"Connecticut, thanks to relatively high taxes, is almost certain to see a price average above that number," said Tom Kloza, global head of energy analysis at the Oil Price Information Service, a gas and oil price-reporting agency in Rockville, Mary-

The United States is not heavily dependent on Russia for oil or gas, but most of Europe is. If Russia were to launch a full-scale attack on Ukraine, the U.S. and its allies would be likely to ratchet up economic sanctions, with Russia likely responding by cutting off oil from the global market, experts say.

That would happen at a time when supplies are already tight and struggling to keep up with demand as the world emerges from a travel slowdown in the pandemic.

"And if they choose to withhold their oil from the global market, such a move would eventually be reflected in higher gas prices for American drivers," said Tracy Noble, a spokesperson for AAA in Greater Hartford.

As of Tuesday, the price for a gallon of regular unleaded gas in Connecticut averaged \$3.66, up 3 cents from a week ago, and about \$1 higher from a year ago, according to AAA. Hartford came in at \$3.65 a gallon.

This week's price was higher than the national average of \$3.53, up 90 cents from a year ago, the AAA survey found.

Michael Frisbie, a partner and owner of 12 Noble gas stations in Connecticut, said the effects of inflation have taken root in the past two months.

"Now, over the last 30 days, what's going on overseas, you're seeing a bigger influence," Frisbie said.

He said he expects another 25% to 30%

increase over the next few weeks.

Higher fuel costs are likely to spill over into other sectors such as groceries, as the cost to transport them rises.

Elected officials, including President Joe Biden, say they will take steps to shield consumers from sticker shock at the gas station, but Biden has said Americans

should brace for it.
U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal is one of several Democratic senators proposing legislation that would suspend the 18.4-cent-a-gallon federal gas tax for the rest of the year.

Russia's aggressive moves into Ukraine is pushing the price of oil to nearly \$100 a barrel this week, a more than 60% jump since last March. It follows steep increases in natural gas due to soaring prices in Europe and storage problems related to the pandemic when demand plummeted, leading to the closing of storage facilities. "I will tell you there is building momen-

Turn to Gas, Page 2



Boarded-up windows and doors accent the exterior wall at the old Ames headquarters in Rocky Hill. Plans are being made to develop more than 200 apartments along with retail and commercial projects at the high-visibility site that's been derelict for 20 years. MARK MIRKO PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT

Taking aim at Ames

In Rocky Hill, more than 200 apartments to replace massive building vacant since 2002

By Don Stacom Hartford Courant

A developer is planning more than 200 apartments along with retail and commercial projects at the former Ames head-quarters, a high-visibility site in Rocky Hill that's been derelict for 20 years.

Hamden-based Belfonti Companies LLC plans to demolish the 250,000-square-foot office building and replace it with 213 apartments, making it among the largest new residential projects in central Connecticut.

Rocky Hill officials have worked for years to find a new use for the abandoned 12-acre Ames site. After prolonged talks with the developer, the planning and zoning commission this month approved a special permit.

Mayor Lisa Marotta said this week that Belfonti's plan will help all of the surrounding area as well.

Turn to Ames, Page 2



Weeds highlight parking lot cracks outside the Ames headquarters in Rocky Hill.

Blumenthal: \$200M needed to expand pediatric care



Sen. Richard Blumenthal, left, meets with Dr. James E. Shmerling, president and CEO at Connecticut Children's Medical Center, in October. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

By Eliza Fawcett Hartford Courant

To address deep-rooted staffing issues in pediatric mental health care, U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal on Wednesday urged a \$200 million federal investment in pediatric medical education this year and highlighted funding disparities in medical training.

"The docs who are trained to work with children get less funding than the residents and trainees at other hospitals," Blumenthal said. He noted that pediatric training for physicians is effectively funded by annual allocations, rather than by automatic Medicare funding, as it is for other medical

education programs.

The additional funding would strengthen the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education program, which funds resident training programs at children's hospitals across the country. Annually, more than 7,000 pediatric residents receive training supported through the program.

Connecticut continues to face a pediatric mental health crisis, which predates but was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Months after facing a surge of children seeking urgent behavioral health care on any given day there are still 30 to 40 children in the

Turn to Pediatrics, Page 2



Psychiatrist to pay \$310K to settle case of banned doctor

By Jesse Leavenworth Hartford Courant

A Hamden psychiatrist must pay about \$310,000 to settle allegations that he employed a physician who had been banned from practicing medicine after a fraud conviction, state and federal officials said Wednesday.

The settlement with Dr. Alan Siegal, owner of Geriatric and Adult Psychiatry LLC, centered on his employment of Eric Ressner, who was prohibited from taking part in government health care programs, state Attorney General William Tong and acting U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut Leonard C. Boyle announced.

Ressner, who worked for

Siegal from 2016-21, lost his license in 2006 after a health care fraud conviction in Florida, authorities said. Anvone who employed him was subject to civil fines.

As an administrator at Siegal's business, Ressner billed and received reimbursement from Medicare, Medicaid, TRICARE and RR Retirement for services to patients, authorities said. Some of those funds were used to pay Ressner's salary and benefits, state and federal officials said.

The Attorney General's Antitrust and Government Program Fraud Section coordinated with the state Department of Revenue Services and the U.S. Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General on the investigation, officials said. Of the total settlement, \$8,005.54 is to be paid to Connecticut Medicaid

Anyone with knowledge of suspected fraud or abuse in the public health care system is asked to contact the Attorney General's Antitrust and Government Program Fraud Section at 860-808-5040, or by email at ag.fraud@ct.gov; the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit at 860-258-5986, or by email at conndcj@ct.gov; or the Department of Social Services fraud reporting hotline at 1-800-842-2155, online at www.ct.gov/dss/reportingfraud, or by email to providerfraud.dss@ct.gov.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at ileavenworth@ courant.com.

Hartford man get prison in federal firearms case

By Jesse Leavenworth Hartford Courant

A citizen of Jamaica was sentenced to a year and a day in prison Tuesday after he pleaded guilty to possessing firearms in Hartford, federal authorities said.

George Harris, 40, who was living in the city at the time of his arrest in July 2021, faces immigration proceedings when he is released, authorities said.

On July 12, 2020, Harris was intoxicated and inside an ambulance headed to Hartford Hospital, according to a news release. When the attending nurse began changing him out of his clothes and into hospital garments, a loaded .38 caliber semiautomatic pistol fell from one of Harris' pants pockets, authorities said.

Harris previously had been convicted of an unnamed felony, authorities said, and it is a violation of federal law for a

convicted felon to possess a firearm or ammunition that has moved in interstate or foreign commerce.

Harris had been detained since his arrest. At the time, he possessed another loaded semiautomatic pistol, federal officials said. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and Hartford police investigated the case, which was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Amanda S. Oakes.

The case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, the centerpiece of the U.S. Department of Justice's violent crime reduction efforts. The program employs a broad spectrum of stakeholders working together to identify the most pressing violent crime problems in the community and develop comprehensive solutions to address them, federal officials said.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at *jleavenworth@courant.com.*



The former Ames headquarters in Rocky Hill. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

from Page 1

"This site is right across from our town Green, our Memorial Day parade goes right by it. Now we've gotten to the point where we won't have to look any longer at the awful blighted building we've been staring at for 20 years," Marotta said.

Gov. Ned Lamont's administration last year put up \$500,000 toward environmental cleanup, and the state department of economic and community development may provide another \$500,000 to \$1 million.

Belfonti hasn't specified a start date or a completion target, but told planners it intends to put up 93 one-bedroom apartments and 120 two-bedroom units. They would be

leased at market rate except for 10 percent of the project, which will be designated for workforce rental

The project will include about 11,000 square feet of commercial office space and 10,000 square feet of retail or restaurant space.

"This is a mixed-use development that ticks off all the boxes we need housing, we need retail space," Marotta said. "This lot is the last large property that can be redeveloped. It's going to be done with a lot of green space, a beautiful pocket park and new sidewalks above and beyond what we could ask for as a municipality.'

The property is along Route 99 at Route 160, and has been an eyesore in town since Ames shut down its chain of department stores in 2002.

Marotta said redeveloping it is a

key part of a larger five- to 10-year plan to create a village center for Rocky Hill.

"We're looking for a place where people can walk, gather or ride bikes at the beginning of our downtown — because we don't have one," she said. "The vision is to start creating a space where people pull up to commercial establishments and can walk around.

"Maybe there will be some infill development along the Silas Deane. And our goal this year is to connect to the riverfront. We can start building our sidewalks off this development," she said.

Belfonti has smaller projects underway in Manchester, Groton, Hamden, Middletown, Litchfield, Ellington, Watertown and Guilford, along with other large-scale ones in Miami and Revere, Massachusetts.

Owner Michael Belfonti told planners that the Rocky Hill project will include a pool, clubhouse and public amenity spaces. It will have nine buildings of apartments and five garage buildings, and engineers told the town that the 360 parking spaces will be shielded from public

Belfonti's consultant team also told the town that the project should benefit stormwater management in the area, since much of the 12 acres is currently paved. That will be sharply reduced in the new plan, according to the developer.

Consultant Mark Forlenza of Brookfield-based Mark Forlenza and Associates said the target market for the new apartments will be young professionals as well as empty-nesters seeking to downsize from suburban houses.

Pediatrics

Connecticut Children's Medical Center emergency department, half of whom are waiting for an inpatient bed to become available, said Dr. James E. Shmerling, the hospital's president and chief executive officer.

In recent months, mental health care providers have highlighted workforce issues in their field, particularly involving the recruitment and retention of clinicians, which state legislators have recently made a cornerstone of their effort to address the crisis.

"Part of the solution is having a larger workforce, having pediatric-trained psychiatrists and other disciplines that take care of these children," Shmerling said.

Children's serves as the Department of Pediatrics for the UConn School of Medicine and trains the vast majority of pediatricians in Connecticut, according to Shmerling. Currently, Children's has about 60 pediatric residents, who train with the institution for three years, as well as 40 fellows who have completed residency and are in sub-specialty training for a few years, he said. Hundreds of other medical students and residents of other disciplines rotate through Children's.

But ideally, the hospital's training capacity would be much greater, he said: "It's probably a quarter of what should be coming through to take care of the demand that we're experiencing."

In a letter Wednesday to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a New York Democrat, and U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, a Washington Democrat and chair of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Blumenthal noted that "the demand for pediatric mental health care is outpacing supply."

A 2019 study found that by 2016, the rate of child psychiatrists to children in the United States stood at about 10 per 100,000 children, though it is estimated that 47 per 100,000 are needed.

Blumenthal conceded that the additional \$200 million would represent a "temporary fix" to the crisis, but said he hopes that it would bridge the funding disparity until the formula could be changed.

"We need to change the structure for funding the training of doctors and others who help children," he said. "They should not be funded in a second-class way, as they are now."

Eliza Fawcett can be reached at elfawcett@ courant.com.

Gas

from Page 1

tum as a result of the outrage and fright that people feel about the astronomically rising costs of fuel and energy," Blumenthal said this week.

Critics say Democrats are looking to preserve their slender Senate majority or expand it in this November's elections and are latching on to an issue popular with voters anxious about inflation. Rising energy costs are contributing to a 7.5% inflation rate that's the highest in 39 years.

Joseph Sculley, president of the Motor Transport Association of Connecticut, called suspending the federal gas tax a "political gimmick." The bill calls for the gas tax

suspension to be lifted Jan. 1, 2023.

"Hopefully, by then the supply chain issues will have been resolved, the crisis in Ukraine, which has disrupted European markets, will be eased or resolved and gasoline prices will return to what they were, which is \$1 less than what they are now," Blumenthal said.

Sculley said by Jan. 1 the "election will be past." He criticized opponents of Keystone XL who helped kill the oil pipeline from Canada to the U.S. Biden last year canceled the project that was fiercely opposed by environmentalists.

"I would ask anyone who is promoting this where they stood on the Keystone pipeline," Sculley said. "If they wanted to stop the Keystone pipeline, which ends our dependence on Russia they don't have a leg to stand on with high gas prices."

The price of gas could fall if the federal tax were suspended, benefiting truckers and other motorists, Sculley said. But the cost of gas could climb higher, undoing the impact of temporarily halting the tax, he said. "This all could be for naught,"

Sculley said. Connecticut is 17th among the states in total taxes and fees on gas, at nearly 36 cents a gallon, according to the Tax Foundation, a tax policy

Blumenthal said the federal gas tax is not needed. Revenue is earmarked for the highway trust fund and legislation enacted by Congress in November will deliver \$1 trillion in public works spending in the U.S. Connecticut will receive more than \$5 billion from the federal infrastructure legislation.

Kloza, the energy analyst, said some reprieve in the tight supply of crude oil could come from Iran if the U.S. and the oil-rich nation complete a new nuclear agreement and related sanctions are lifted.

"We'll know in a few weeks," Kloza said. "In any case, I believe we are on a trajectory for triple digit crude oil prices, but I don't see the case for \$125-\$150 [per barrel] oil that is championed by some banks," Kloza said.

Kenneth R. Gosselin can be reached at kgosselin@courant.com. Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger@ courant.com.



Special subscriber message

Your subscription includes Unlimited Digital Access

Get the latest stories online, our app with breaking news alerts and the eNewspaper, a digital edition of our paper, emailed daily.



Go-Activate.com

THE BALTIMORE SUN | Chicago Tribune | Daily Press | Hartford Courant | THE MORNING CALL DAILY NEWS | Orlando Sentinel | SunSentinel | The Virginian-Pilot

CONNECTICUT

Westport cop saves man on overpass

By Jesse Leavenworth

Hartford Courant

A Westport police officer rescued a man who appeared to be ready to jump from a Merritt Parkway overpass in Fairfield Wednesday morning, police said.

Officer Brian Meraviglia was driving over the Redding Road overpass at about 6:45 a.m. on his way to work when he saw a male leaning over the overpass. Meraviglia got out of his car and started speaking with the obviously distraught person, police spokesman Lt. David Wolf said.

As the two were talking, Meraviglia was able to get close and grab the person and move him away from the edge, Wolf said. The officer and a good Samaritan tried to comfort the person while state and Fairfield police responded, he said.

Westport Police Chief Foti Koskinas said he was "extremely proud" of Meraviglia, noting that his quick actions likely prevented a tragic outcome, Wolf said.

For information on suicide prevention and available resources, visit https://portal.ct.gov/DMHAS/Programs-and-Services/ Finding-Services/Suicide-Resources

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at *jleavenworth@courant.com.*

Police ID teen victim in fatal crash on I-384 in Manchester

By Jesse Leavenworth Hartford Courant

MANCHESTER — State police on Wednesday identified a Hartford teenager who died in a one-car crash on I-384

in Manchester early Saturday. Ramon Quinones, 16, of 144 Wilson St., was pronounced dead at the scene.

The crash happened at about 5 a.m. in the eastbound lanes west of exit 2. The driver lost control and the car traveled from the right side of the highway to the left and onto the median, where it struck a tree and broke in two, police said.

The driver, Jorge Ruiz, 21, of Hartford, and another passenger, Tajay Hunter, also 21, of Hartford, both survived and were taken to an area hospital for treatment of serious injuries, police said.

Any witness to the crash is asked to contact Trooper John Wilson at 860-534-1098, or at john.wilson@ct.gov.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at *jleavenworth@courant.com.*

Connecticut Forum explores racial justice

By Christopher Arnott Hartford Courant

The latest Connecticut Forum panel discussion, which is Friday at The Bushnell, is about "The Fight for Racial Justice: Understanding and Dismantling Systemic Racism."



The panelists include former San Antonio, Texas mayor and former presidential candidate Julian Castro; Korean-American poet Cathy Park Hong (author of "Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning"); and Baratunde Thurston, author

of "How To Be Black" and host of the podcast "How To Citizen." The talk will be moderated by Melissa Harris-Perry, host of the morning news show "The Takeaway."

Connecticut Forum describes the event as "an unscripted conversation combining political analysis, cultural reflections, and personal stories, our panel of powerful voices will examine and confront the structural inequities embedded in our systems and institutions." The forum is hosted by CT Humanities.

The forum was founded 30 years ago and is known for gathering a variety of voices from the worlds of politics, entertainment, literature and academia. Panelists over the years have included Toni Morrison, Patti Smith, Michelle Obama, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, Anita Hill, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Marc Maron and many others. Connecticut Forum hosted a legendary encounter between Al Franken and Ann Coulter in 2004.

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carnott@courant.com.



University of Hartford professor Katherine Owens shows a drawing to guide her through the creation of a 60-foot sperm whale mural Wednesday at Our House in Meriden.



Students Layla Velez, left, and Dylan Baez Ayala help professor Katherine Owens carry a 60-foot canvas she is using to make a mural of a sperm whale out of discarded plastic.



Kneeling on her mural of a harbor porpoise, University of Hartford professor Katherine Owens talks with students at Our House in Meriden. MARK MIRKO PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT

One whale of a lesson

Artist and UHart professor hand-stitches murals from reclaimed plastic to teach others about plastic pollution

By Kaitlin McCallum Hartford Courant

When the pandemic canceled trips to Uganda, Colombia and India, Kat Owens, a plastic-pollution researcher and professor at the University of Hartford, looked around her home in Middletown.

"I don't have to travel around the world to study plastic. It is really everywhere," she said in an interview Wednesday. "I've been trying to think about how it's in our everyday life and

Owens trains members of the public to collect plastic pollution using scientific methods to create data that is usable for scientists. She's also an artist and a mom. The combination of skills and heaps of plastic waste from caring for a family led her to a new project, using plastic to create life-size portraits of 46 animals harmed by plastic debris.

She uses canvas for structure, then hand sews the animal portraits out of the kind of film plastic that's nearly impossible to recycle in the United States.

"To me, it's about sharing information. When we see those arrows printed on something, we think 'It's on me. I just have to figure out where to recycle this, but in most cases it's not really recyclable," Owens said.

To build awareness of the material's ubiquity, where it ends up and the animals it harms, Owens visited summer camps in Hartford, West Hartford and Middletown with a portion of an 18-foot minke whale and invited children to participate in

She's also set up shop in an empty storefront at 428 Main St. in Middletown, where anyone can drop in and work on the

"What I hear from people when they come by Main Street and they see it from far away is 'Oh, it's this cool bright, toy-colored portrait of an animal.' People love animals. They say, 'Oh, it's a turtle. I love turtles," Owens said. "But when they get close, they recognize things they use ... Whether little kids or adults, they say 'That's my potato chips or I have that Old Navy mailer.'

Owens hopes people will realize how much plastic has permeated their everyday lives, and that it's not going away. Ninety-five percent of plastic packaging isn't recycled glob-

The goal isn't to shame consumers because the material is practically unavoidable, she says.

"I read stories about people who go without plastic and I really admire that, but without unlimited time or money, I don't know how working parents could do that," she said. "At some point you have to buy food."

Instead, she's hoping to increase education and advocacy. On Wednesday she had just sent in comments to the Connecticut General Assembly's Environmental Committee on Senate Bills 115 and 118 concerning plastics.

On SB 115, "the idea is that whoever is [producing] this kind of packaging, they need to be held accountable for what happens to it at the end of its life. As it is now, it's usually taxpayer dollars cleaning up rivers and the ocean. The people who are profiting from it are not picking up the tab," Owens says.

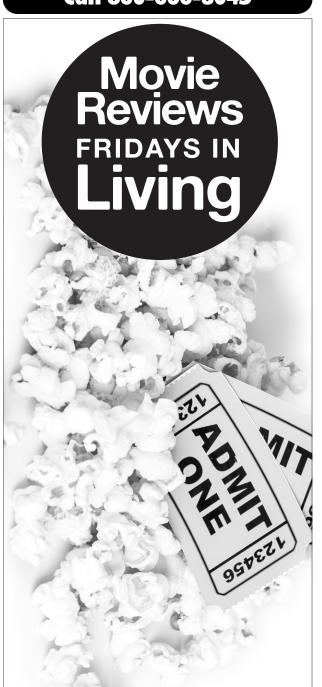
Owens is currently working on a 60-foot sperm whale. For information on volunteering or to follow her work, visit katow-

Kaitlin McCallum can be reached at kmccallum@courant.



Student Diana Yaulema stitches pieces of discarded plastic to a 60-foot piece of canvas during the Our House art program in Meriden. The students were creating a 60-foot sperm whale out of reclaimed plastic.







The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Out of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated February 9, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim. to recover on such claim.

Rosemary L. Nolin, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is: Stephen W. Lewis, 276 Scott Dr., Sou Windsor, CT 06074 /24/2022 7155349

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Deep River Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission, at a regular meeting held on February 10, 2022, took the following

Granted Permit No. 1-22 to Thomas & Granted Permit No. 1-22 to Thomas & Keri MacLean for the purpose of construction of a two car detached garage and above ground pool on property at 37 Hillside Terrace (Map 52, Lot 60C-2), subject to conditions on file in the Deep River Town Clerk's office.

Tanner Steeves, Chairman Deep River Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commission 2/24/2022 7155434

TOWN OF CROMWELL PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

LEGAL NOTICE

The Town of Cromwell Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday March 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 224 of the Cromwell Town Hall at 41 West Street on the following through the Street on the following through

1. Application #22-01: Request for a Use Permit for Travelers Championship Golf Tournament at 100 Golf Club Road. Greater Hartford Community Foundation Inc. is the Applicant; Tournament Players Club of Connecticut Inc. is the Owner

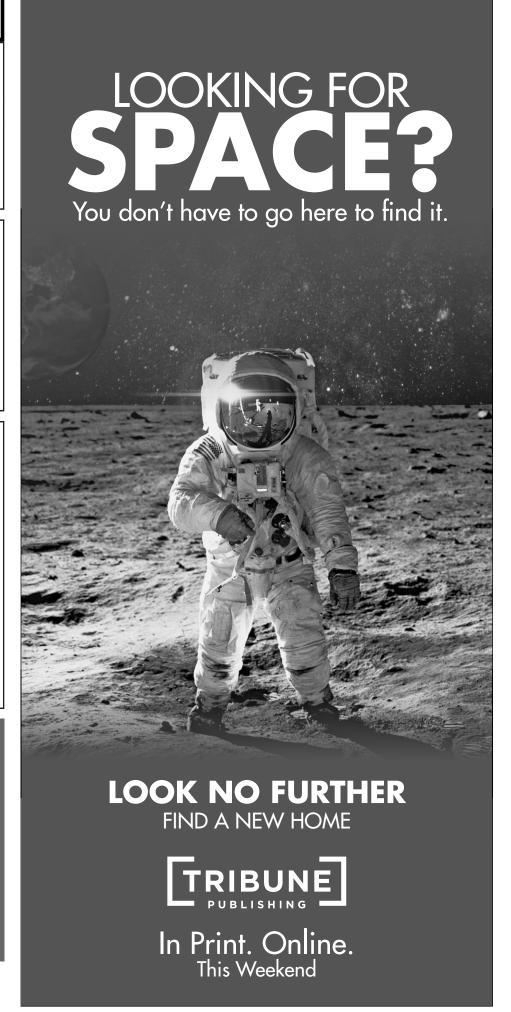
At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written testimony received. This application is available for public inspection in the office of the Town Planner.

Alice Kelly Chairman

Dated in Cromwell, Connecticut this the 2/17 & 2/24 7147672

Hear our top news.

Start now at PlayOurNews.com



Advertise

it's that easy!

- Selling an item
 - Hiring an employee
- Celebrating a loved one
- **Announcing an event**







Review & Submit

Self-Service Print and Online Display and Classified Ads See Your Options:

Visit: placeanad.tribpub.com



Chicago Tribune

Hartford Courant

Daily Press

THE MORNING CALL

THE BALTIMORE SUN

The Virginian-Pilot

Orlando Sentinel

SunSentinel



LILLI CARRE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

OMITTING REAL CAUSE OF DEATH

When certificates are vague, misleading info can be the result

By Jane E. Brody The New York Times

combination of journalistic curiosity and advancing years prompts me to read obituaries regularly. I routinely check for ages and causes of death that can help inform what I write about and how I live.

Increasingly, I've noted in published reports that people are often said to die of "complications of" some disease, rather than the disease itself.

For example, in an obituary published on Jan. 9 in The New York Times for Dwayne Hickman, who starred in the television sitcom "The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis," a spokesman attributed his death at 87 to "complications of Parkinson's disease." And another, published two days earlier for Lani Guinier, a legal scholar and champion of voting rights, stated that she succumbed at 71 to "complications of Alzheimer's disease.'

What, I wondered, does that mean? How is it recorded on death certificates? And does it result in accurate mortality statistics needed for assigning priorities for medical research and allocating resources?

I looked up the complications of Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases. Someone with Parkinson's disease may have poor balance and die from a fall, for example, but Parkinson's is actually the underlying cause of the death. Similarly, people with Alzheimer's disease often have difficulty swallowing and may accidentally inhale food and develop a fatal pneumonia; such secondary infections are listed as the cause of death for as many as two-thirds of these patients.

The result can be seriously misleading information, said Dr. James Gill, the chief medical examiner for the state of Connecticut. While pneumonia may be the proximate cause of death, Alzheimer's disease, which is why the patient developed pneumonia in the first place, is the "specific underlying cause that started the chain of events and should be listed as the cause of death," he said.

In fact, one study from 2014 suggested that the real death rate from Alzheimer's in 2010 may have been more about six times higher than the number of deaths reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Likewise, if someone with COVID-19 develops pneumonia and dies, their death certificate might say that pneumonia was the cause of death, but in reality it was a coronavi-

rus infection I asked Gill, who heads the College of American Pathologists Forensic Pathology Committee, why this matters. "In order to prevent deaths, we want to know what's causing them, which influences medical practice and the awarding of research grants," he said. "If many dementia deaths are hidden, the disease is not getting enough funding.'

More dramatically, Gill added, "Having accurate death certificates saves lives. It enables us to identify new and trending diseases and take appropriate action." If someone is living or working in a building with a poorly installed or maintained furnace, for instance, they may be exposed to toxic levels of carbon monoxide that could eventually cause fatal cardiac and respiratory failure. The cause of death might be recorded as cardiac arrest, but in fact was a result of carbon monoxide poisoning, and the presence of the faulty appliance would likely be missed and could result in further casualties.

In a research review published in

the magazine Today's Geriatric Medicine, Dr. Emily Carter, a geriatrician affiliated with the Maine Medical Center, and co-authors noted that the data submitted on death certificates can affect families with regard to life insurance, estate settlement, genetic risk factors and finding closure. They estimate that major errors, like incorrect cause or manner of death, occur in 33 to 40% of death certificates that are completed at academic institutions like their own in the United States.

An analysis of death certificates found that cardiac or respiratory arrest were incorrectly entered as the immediate cause of death on 11 of the 50 documents they reviewed. As Gill said, "Everyone who dies, dies of cardiopulmonary arrest. The critical question is: Why did this happen? Let's say someone dies of a stomach hemorrhage. What caused it? Stomach cancer, an ulcer or what?"

There are many reasons for the high rate of inaccurate or incomplete death certificates, starting with the meager attention paid to the subject in medical school and the hectic pace in many medical settings. Speed is sometimes dictated by the need to release a body to a funeral home for burial or crema-

The CDC has estimated that 20 to 30% of death certificates, though not necessarily inaccurate, "have issues with completeness." The agency stated that heavy workloads, insufficient information about a death or inadequate training can result in death certificates that are inaccurate.

Furthermore, many deaths are certified by coroners, who are elected or appointed to their positions and may have bachelor's degrees in forensic science, but are usually not doctors. They can be subject to political or family influence and may fail, for example, to list opioid overdose as a cause of death. Even when death certificates are completed by medical

examiners, who are usually doctors, they may not be trained in forensic pathology and could miss the real cause of death. A death following a fall, for example, might have been accidental, or it could have resulted from an underlying disease or even homicide.

According to a blog post from Womble Bond Dickinson, a trans-Atlantic law firm with headquarters in London, "the death certificate may be critical in a lawsuit" to help determine "the nature of the death," factors that contributed to it, when it occurred and illnesses that may have played a role.

If the death was the result of a medical illness, the death certificate is usually completed by the physician in charge, Carter and her colleagues wrote in their review. However, they emphasized, a medical examiner should certify all other causes, including deaths related to hip fracture which could have resulted from an accident, and deaths related to a history of malicious injury that could be a homicide.

Unfortunately, despite what you may see in films and on TV, autopsies today are performed less and less often. Families often have to pay for them out of pocket. Between the high cost of autopsies and the increasingly limited resources to do them, they

have become a dying breed. Families can often benefit from knowing the real cause of a relative's or housemate's death. Might there be a payout from life insurance? Is there a home problem, like a slippery floor, lack of grab bars in the bathroom or a faulty furnace, that needs correction? Is there an inherited medical condition that can be mitigated to avert further casualties? Could malpractice have caused or contributed to the death?

If a death certificate contains errors that warrant correction, the sooner that's done the better.

'Universal' donor organs would eliminate need to match blood types

HealthDay News

It's possible to create "universal" donor organs that would eliminate the need to match transplant donor and recipient blood types, researchers report.

With the current matching system, wait times can be considerably longer for patients who need a transplant depending on their blood type," said senior study author Dr. Marcelo Cypel, surgical director of the Ajmera

Transplant Centre, University Health Network, or UHN, in Toronto.

"Having universal organs means we could eliminate the blood-matching barrier and prioritize patients by medical urgency, saving more lives and wasting less organs," added Cypel.

The researchers said their proof-of-concept study is a significant step toward creating universal type O

organs for transplantation. The need to match donor and recipient blood types

can result in long waits for some people in transplant waiting lists. For example, patients with type O blood have to wait an average of two times longer for a lung transplant than those with type A blood, according to study first author Aizhou Wang, a scientific associate at Cypel's lab.

"This translates into mortality. Patients who are type O and need a lung transplant have a 20% higher risk of dying while waiting for a matched

organ to become available," Wang said.

She pointed to other examples. A patient with type O or B who needs a kidney transplant will wait for an average of four to five

years, compared with two to three years for people with types A or AB. "If you convert all organs to universal type O, you

can eliminate that barrier completely," Wang said. In this case, the study authors used human donor

lungs from type A donors

that were not suitable for transplantation. One lung was treated with a group of enzymes to clear the blood type-determining antigens from its surface, while the

other lung was untreated. The team then added type O blood and found that the treated lungs were well tolerated while the untreated lungs showed

signs of rejection. The findings were published in the journal Science Translational

Medicine.



DREAMSTIME

Judges know what contestants go through on 'American Idol'

By Luaine Lee Tribune News Service

When musician-singerproducer Lionel Richie was first asked to be a judge on "American Idol," he said no. "I said, 'Guys, I'm busy. I'm an artist. I have to be on the road. I want to be out where my fans are."

He was where his fans were. The four-time Grammy winning performer, who also earned an Academy Award and sold more than 100 million records, continued to appear before adoring audiences. That was some years ago, and on Sunday, Richie returns as one of three judges on ABC's "American Idol," as it launches its 20th season.

"I got to a point in my life where you have all of this knowledge, you actually know a lot about what they (the contestants) are going through," says Richie. "So, when I was asked this time around, the answer was 'Yeah!"

He and fellow judges Katy Perry and Luke Bryan have suffered the same jitters that plague the hopefuls on the show, he says. "The difference is, now we know exactly how they feel. We've been there before. We've heard noes more than we've ever heard yeses," he says.

"And, so, to get here and to know what they are going through probably is half the game to us. We are there actually holding their hands and understanding that — let's talk about something for a minute. We are talking about talent. That's one thing. But what are they going through while they are trying to sing?"

Getting there wasn't easy for any of the now-famous trio.

"The one thing for me was probably hearing 'no' so many times," says



Lionel Richie, from left, Katy Perry and Luke Bryan serve as judges on "American Idol." **ERIC MCCANDLESS/ABC**

Perry, who rose to fame with such hits as "I Kissed a Girl" and "One of the Boys."

"And then, still betting on myself and believing after having three record deals and being dropped, and two cars repossessed and sleeping on couches and eating Trader Joe's chicken tenders for, like, a year and a half. That was not that hard, but it was, it was all a part of the process," she says.

For country singersongwriter Bryan, best known for his hit songs "Drink a Beer," "Kick the Dust Up" and "Kiss Tomorrow Goodbye," it was not only arriving on top, but also staying there.

'I think for me it was about each level of having to conquer," says Bryan. "You move to Nashville, then you have to conquer Nashville. Then you have to go get a record deal. And constantly - no matter what you do — you've always got to reinvent yourself and take it to the next level. And each stress of that next level, gosh, was always very, very challenging. And that's what so many of these kids don't realize, that the stress never ends."

Richie, who got his start with the Commodores,

says it was different for him.

"I came from a group situation. So I could take the noes a lot better because there were five other guys that took the noes with me. But, there's one thing that you just cannot overlook, and that's the time you have to put in.

"And there's always that moment where you say, 'I'm ready.' And we hear these kids on 'American Idol' say so many times, 'I'm ready. I'm 15 years old. I'm ready to go.' And we're saying, 'No, you're not,' "he says.

Bryan finds it thrilling to discover that special talent on the series.

"That door opens at 'American Idol,' and there's an artist. There's a person that comes in that door, and we don't care what they look like. We don't care (about) their sexual orientation. We don't care where they are going. We look at them with an open heart and an open mind. And do you know what? For the most part, what I'm proud (about) this show is we feel like our viewers at home are doing the exact same thing. Are we ever going to bat a thousand? Never. But we ... sure work hard to give everybody



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Longtime partners engaged in war of wills

adviser might suggest that

Dear Amy: My partner and I have been together for 24 years. We've owned two houses together, and I have been a loyal employee at his family-owned business for 20 years.

He dodges every attempt I make to discuss his estate plan. He says that he doesn't want to offend anyone. Well, he's already offended me. All he thinks about is his obligation to his father and siblings.

Our house is in joint tenancy, so if something happens to him at least I won't be homeless.

I will, however, lose my income, his income and company-provided vehicle. And did I mention that we have a fairly large mortgage on our current residence?

I understand that he wants/needs to leave his share of the business to his brother/partner. But if he dies without a will, all of his assets will go to his elderly father and then to his siblings.

This is beginning to keep me awake at night. Any suggestions?

— No Way Without a Will

Dear No Way: You need the expertise of an estate planner. Researching your question, I could find no provisions for a long-term domestic partner after death — without a will specifically designating it. (You are obviously already aware of this.)

Rules for inheritance vary, state by state, but if someone dies intestate — for a partner to inherit, marriage seems to be a necessity.

Set up a meeting, and if your partner won't attend, go on your own. The you each hold life insurance policies designating the partner as the beneficiary. The same would go for any retirement accounts. Your adviser should also pass along their recommendations regarding how you as an individual can best protect and provide for your future if your partner dies before you without a will. You should also carefully review your joint tenancy agreement.

It seems logical (to me) that your partner's share in his family's business should be handled separately. If he won't attend this meeting with you, bring home all of the information you've gathered and ask him to review it with you.

Estate planning can be tricky and complicated. For some people, it can also be somewhat frightening. But, like many financial decisions, once you get started tackling problems, you will sleep better.

Dear Amy: My granddaughter is 14 and estranged from her father (my son).

(my son).
She lives over an hour away with her mother and

her mother's parents.
The adults have stated
before that they have noth-

ing against me, just my son.
Before her birthday in
early December, I texted
(both her and her mother)
that I would like to come
down for a shopping and
lunch date to celebrate her
birthday.

My granddaughter replied that she was too busy and did not want to go shopping, etc. I ended up sending a check.

The check was cashed

but I never got a "thank you" or any other correspondence. Before Christmas I again texted them both to arrange a time that I could come down to celebrate Christmas. Neither of them responded.

Before this, I thought I had a fairly good relationship with my granddaughter and the adults she lives with. What can I do reestablish a relationship?

— Sad Grandma

Dear Sad: Communicate directly with the child's mother and ask if she can meet you for coffee over the weekend.

Ask her for suggestions regarding how to reestablish a connection.

Please understand that this wounded 14-year-old is not mature enough to leap over this awkwardness on her own. You will need the other adults in her life to encourage this relationship and help it grow.

Dear Amy: I was relieved to see your response to "Sharp End of the Stick," who was attacked with a knife by a relative who had gone off his meds.

Thank you for emphasizing that she should not bow to any family pressure to spend time in this man's presence. Even if the family member is now stable, she should not return until she feels safe.

— Survivor

Dear Survivor: Thank you. This question was quite alarming.

Copyright 2022 by Amy Dickinson

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

CELEBRITIES

3 hosts will also perform at ACMs

From news services

Dolly Parton, Jimmie Allen and Gabby Barrett will be pulling double duty with special performances on top of their hosting duties at the Academy of Country Music Awards.

Country superstar and host Parton will be performing with fellow East Tennessee native Kelsea Ballerini on a song from Parton's upcoming album and novel, "Run, Rose, Run." Co-hosts Barrett and Allen will open the March 7 show with a two-song set. The awards ceremony will be livestreamed on Prime Video.

Leading nominee Chris Young also has a couple of performances, including his song "Raised on Country," and a collaboration with Mitchell Tenpenny. Brittney Spencer will make her ACM debut with a performance with Brothers Osborne. Luke Bryan also has double performances, including his hit "Buy Dirt" with Jordan Davis and a performance of his ballad "Up."

Musician Brooker dies:

Gary Brooker, 76, the Procol Harum frontman, has died. The English rock band said Brooker died at his home on Saturday. He had been receiving treatment for cancer.

Brooker was singer and keyboard player with the band, which had a huge hit with its first single, "A Whiter Shade of Pale." The song became one of the signature tunes of the 1967 "Summer of Love."

The band never had another hit on the same scale, but Brooker continued to lead Procol Harum for more than five decades, through various lineup changes and 13 albums.

Brooker also released four solo albums.

Singer Lanegan dies: Mark Lanegan, 57, the singer whose raspy baritone and darkly poetic songwriting made Screaming Trees an



Academy of Country Music Awards. RICH FURY/GETTY

essential part of the early Seattle grunge scene and brought him an acclaimed solo career, died Tuesday.

No cause was given in a post regarding his death on Lanegan's Twitter account. In a memoir released last year, Lanegan said a severe case of COVID-19 left him hospitalized in a coma.

Lanegan never saw major commercial success, but through seven full-length albums with Screaming Trees, 10 solo records, and collaborations with Queens of the Stone Age and many others, he won a devoted fan base that included critics and his fellow musicians of several generations.

Academy Awards to present 8 awards off-air:

The Oscars are undergoing a radical slimming down, with eight awards to be presented off-air during the March 27 telecast of the 94th Academy Awards.

the March 27 telecast of the 94th Academy Awards In a letter sent Tuesday to members of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, the group's president, David Rubin, said that the awards for film editing, production design, sound, makeup and hairstyling, music (original score) and the three short film awards (documentary, live-action and animated) will be presented at the ceremony before the live broadcast begins on ABC.

The presentation and speeches of those early winners will be edited and featured during the three-hour broadcast, which Rubin emphasized would still provide each winner with their "Oscar moment."

Feb. 24 birthdays: Actor Dominic Chianese is 91. Singer Joanie Sommers is 81. Actor Barry Bostwick is 77. Actor Edward James Olmos is 75. Musician George Thorogood is 72. Actor Helen Shaver is 71. Actor Emilio Rivera is 61. Actor Billy Zane is 56. Actor Daniel Kaluuya is 33. Actor O'Shea Jackson Jr. is 31.

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): Your skills may be more finely tuned than usual, but that won't help if they aren't noticed. Without too much effort, you can probably promote yourself as the person you'd like to be. Not all the advice you receive will be reliable.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): A different way of thinking could appeal to you. Changing the way you look at the world and your place in it might make you realize just how much you're really worth. It's worth remembering that not everyone around you will be as nice as you'd like them to be!

Gemini (May 21-June 20):
A seemingly good business deal could be laid at your feet today. Unfortunately, if you ask for more details, the whole thing could sound nebulous. It may be that their views on the finances needed are a bit on the unrealistic side. Digging a little deeper might reveal some implications that bother you.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): You could easily be led into excess at the moment. Someone may promise you some fun, and even if they can deliver it, there can be such a thing as too much of a good time. If you don't exercise a little restraint, you could end up regretting it later — with no one to blame but yourself.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):
Work can be much easier when everyone gets along as they do now. While this may not mean you'll all get more done, there are likely to be less stressful incidents, which will let you get to work without too many interruptions. Take advantage of the more peaceful atmosphere.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Today is about playing. If you do need to work, you can probably introduce a bit of fun to make it more enjoyable. Just be careful that you don't go too far. People won't take you very seriously if all you seem to do is mess around. Beware of getting in someone's way when they're focused.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A few luxuries at home can make you feel good today. A boost to your surroundings can be a boost for you. However, try not to get carried away — more isn't necessarily better. You could easily create bother for yourself by saying something that comes out rude, even though you didn't intend that.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your words might sound quite poetic today, even if you usually wouldn't consider yourself that eloquent. Even mundane chats can give you a flush of pleasure right now. It's an ideal time to make friends with people you formerly had only a passing acquaintance with.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You might be shorter on cash than you think at the moment. Make an effort to avoid frittering your money away on things that don't really matter. With plenty of ideas rushing through your head, it can be hard to decide. Assess them one by one in more detail.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Whatever you currently look like, people are probably big fans of it. You don't need to say anything at all. You can just enjoy the compliments. When it comes to any more definite commitments, you might need to check things out before dedicating yourself to any situation.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):
A boost to your compassion could make you ache to help the less fortunate today. That's great—as long as they actually want your help. Otherwise, you might be acting like a nuisance. With all the different possibilities before you, it can be hard to choose which is best. See things through.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Currently, you're probably spoiled for choice when it comes to social invitations. You can't say yes to everyone who asks you to join them, but you can probably agree to the vast majority. If there's someone you've been dying to meet, this is an ideal time to ask for an introduction.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Feb. 24, 1942, the SS Struma, a ship attempting to carry nearly 800 Jewish refugees from Romania to British-mandated Palestine, was torpedoed by a Soviet submarine; all but one perished. In 1981, a jury in White Plains, New York, found Jean Harris guilty of second-degree murder in the fatal shooting of "Scarsdale Diet" author Dr. Herman Tarnower.

In 1993, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney resigned.

In 2002, the Salt Lake City Olympics came to a close, the same day Canada won its first hockey gold in 50 years (the U.S. won silver).

In 2011, Discovery, the world's most traveled spaceship, thundered into orbit for the final time, heading toward the International Space Station.

In 2020, Harvey Weinstein was convicted in New York on charges of rape and sexual assault involving two women.

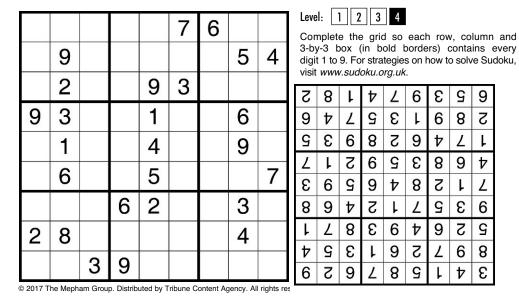
301

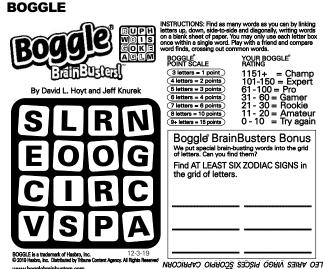
BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

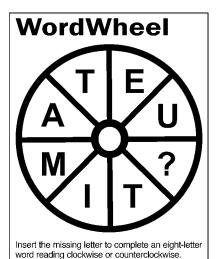
An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at **Play.Jumble.com**



SUDOKU







JTAMITJU

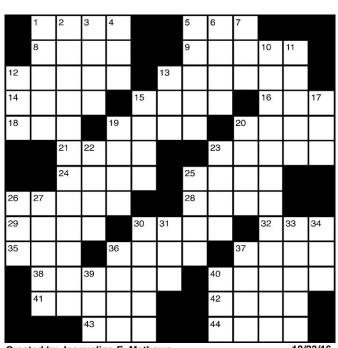
WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: home



TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- City' 5 "Nashville" network
- 8 African nation Actor Russell
- 12 Abdul or Zahn 13 Terror
- 14 Know-it-_ _; smart alecks
- 15 Actress Amanda
- _ moment; instant of sudden realization
- 18 "The Little Couple" network 19 Rogers and Clark 20 Puncture
- 21 "Once __ a Time" 23 TV host Hugh __ 24 "Eternal Sunshine of the
- Spotless __"; Carrey/Winslet film . Texas
- 26 Scott Caan's dad
- 28 "O Brother, Where Art ___?"; George Clooney movie

35 Hostel

- 29 Very dry 30 Ring out 32 "__ It Be"; Beatles song

- 36 Droops
- 37 "__ Anything"; "Oliver!" song 38 "By the Time __ Phoenix"
- 40 Actress Bialik
- 41 Actor Rob 42 "__ You Babe"; signature song You Babe"; Sonny & Cher's
- 44 Costello and Ferrigno

DOWN

- Time Crooks"; Woody Allen movie
- _; role on "The Night Shift"
- 3 Misfortunes 4 Actress Peeples
- "Green 6 News journalist Hume
- 7 Gearwheel tooth Do?"; hidden camera series
- _ Allen; leader of the Green $\overline{\text{Mountain Boys}}$
- 12 Mr. Sajak
- 13 Tina of "30 Rock" 15 "On Golden __"; film for Henry Fonda and Katharine Hepburn
- 17 Stomach muscles, for short 19 Howard and Glass
- 20 Mediocre
- 22 "The __ Piper of Hamelin"
 23 Actress and "What's My Line?" panelist Arlene
- 25 Parent/teacher orgs. 26. __ alai; fast-paced game 27 Golfer Palmer, to friends
- 30 Singer __ Cline 31 Sense of self-esteem
- 33 Corrects a manuscript 34 Ryan Eggold's role on "The
- Blacklist 36 Flower stalk
- 37 Villain in "Othello" 39 Greek letter
- 40 Wire diameter measurement

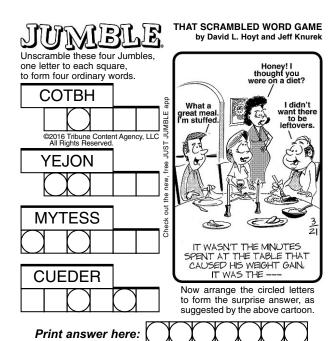


SUGGESTED

JUMBLE

MAID

DECK

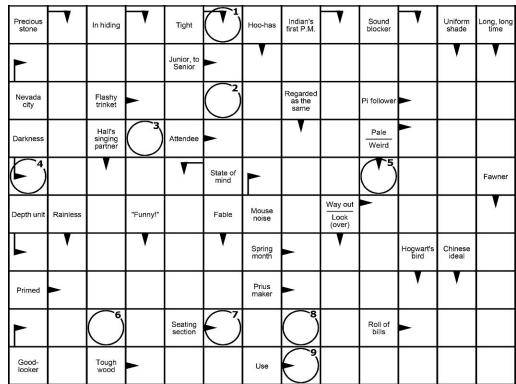


STATION

Jumbles: BOTCH ENJOY SYSTEM REDUCE Answer: It wasn't the minutes spent at the table that caused his weight gain, it was the — SECC

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.

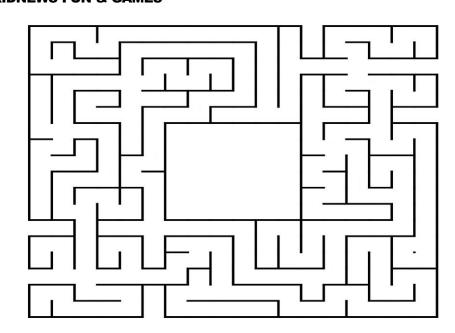


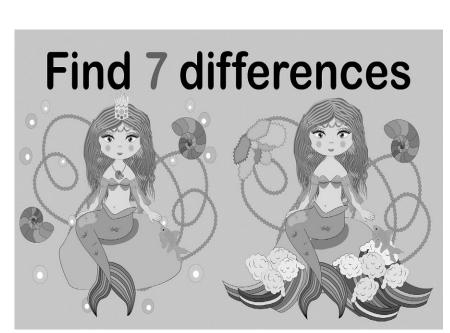
©2020 Knight Features. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

5/23/20

	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES











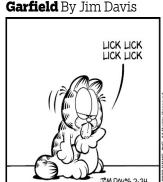


Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau













Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly





Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



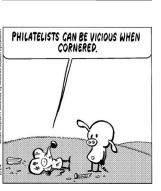




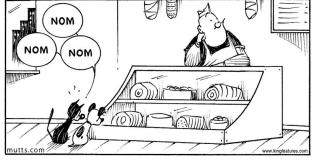
Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis







Mutts By Patrick McDonnell





Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt







Jump Start By Robb Armstrong







Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley







Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall







Dilbert By Scott Adams







Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin





Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman





Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty





Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley





Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos





BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS SHE'S COMING OVER!

Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk







Lio By Mark Tatulli







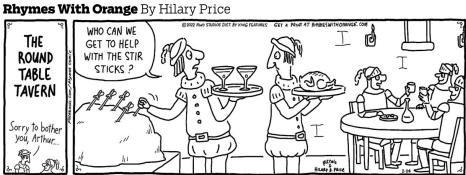


Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker

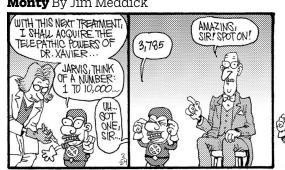








Monty By Jim Meddick





For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston

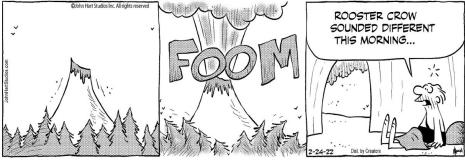








B.C. By Hart



Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker





Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne





Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne





Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller













Pickles By Brian Crane









Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman







Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer







Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters





CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

52 Siena

53 Bride of a title

54 *"Godspeed"

to the cast of

'Godspell," say

_ Park, Colo.

57 Orange variety

_La La":

60 See 1-Across

1 Perturbed

"instant"

product, e.g.

3 Isolate, in a way

"You're pinch-

2 Many an

4 "Grab

hitting"

suffix

5 Beat or neat

6 Miata maker

Manfred Mann

Orkan

58 Slip end?

hit

Down

59

Across With 60-Across, disguise one's identity .. and what the answers to starred clues subtly do?

- 6 Common commuter org. Key with no sharps or flats:
- Abbr. 13 Gender identity
- spectrum 15 Origami bird *"On the Waterfront"
- director Lena of "The Wiz"
- Switz. neighbor 18
- 19 XL x XL
- 20 Not so concentrated
- MLB's Cards, on scoreboards
- *Openwater paddlers
- "Yikes!" 26 Econ. measure
- 27 Madre's sister
- 28 Greensounding Navy jacket 32 Sq., for one
- *Pungent French beef dish 36 Cache
- 37 Vehement 38 Inner_
- 39 FGs often end them 40 "Am not!"
- retort 44 *Historic Pearl Harbor
- event 49 French
- possessive 50 Puma rival Bobby on

- 7 Place to race sweetheart
 - 8 "Atlas Shrugged" author Rand
 - Raven's sound Member of a
 - pitching staff? "The Vampire Chronicles" author
 - 12 Taunts 14 Newborn's
 - acquisition 15 For a song
 - Jazz trumpeter Marsalis
 - 22 Kind of butter used in skin care Showing
 - surprise
 - 25 Gush

32 Camper with a

camper

- 29 Strong
- 52 Sigmund watchdogs contemporary 30 Art able to
 - Tagged, perhaps
- 54 First Korean act to perform at the Grammys

33 Plymouth

34 Excoriated

buns

Green-

lights

42 Legendary

Venus

45 Did sum

math?

47 Play area

hill

46 Ark document

48 Jagged little

43 Plains tribe

sister of

41 Latin catchall

36

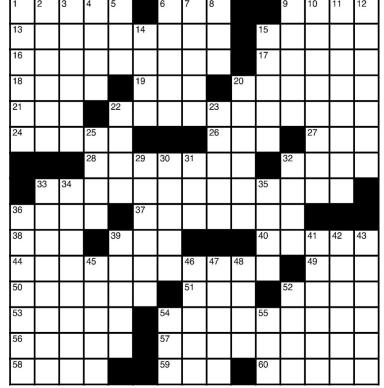
Colony VIP

35 "Out of Africa"

author Dinesen

Bits on some

55 Hawaii's Mauna



By Jesse Fielding, Pete Muller and Andrew White Tribune Content Agency 2/24/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

North dealer. North-South vulnerable. **NORTH A** 9 8 6 4 ♦ A K Q 6 4 3 **♣**Q9 WEST **EAST ♦** 5 2 ♠ K **♥**87 **♥**J6543 **♦** 10 9 8 2 **♣**J 10 7 5 3 ♣A K 8 6 4 2 **SOUTH ♦** Q J 10 7 3 ♥ A K Q 10 9 2 **♦** J 5 The bidding: North West

South East 6 🏚 1 ♦ 2 NT 3 ♠ Pass 6 🏚 7 🌲 Opening lead — eight of hearts. A very costly decision

Percentage plays are not always successful, and sometimes they can prove very costly.

Consider this deal played in a World Bridge Olympiad match between Canada and the United States. When the Canadians held the North-South cards, they reached seven spades on the sequence shown, and West led a heart,

won by South with the nine. Declarer played the queen of spades at trick two and, after West followed with the deuce, had to make a critical decision. After giving full weight to all factors including East's "unusual notrump" overcall promising length in hearts and clubs -South finessed the queen, lost to East's singleton king and so went down one. Of course, had declarer gone up with the ace instead, he would have scored 2,210 points!

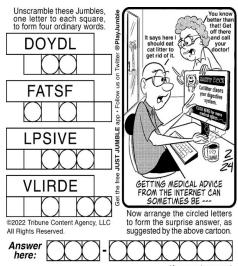
South's decision certainly can't be faulted, since he made the play that was likely to win far more often than it would lose. Perhaps the finger of blame can be pointed more correctly at South for his decision to carry on to seven spades, rather than passing six.

At the other table, the U.S. North-South pair stopped at six spades. West led the jack of clubs, ruffed by South. Taking no chances, declarer led the queen of spades to the ace, caught the king and so made the slam with an overtrick for a score of 1,460 points.

Ironically, the declarer who bid six made seven, while the declarer who bid seven made six.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz. **JUMBLE**

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK



TODAY'S SUDOKU

_								Co	mn	lete	th	ьq	rid	รถ	אכ	۱
	1		7		2	5		Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 be in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strai								
6			2				3									
თ			8					gie visi								
5	9	2				4		ANSWER TO								
								_	RE	:VI	O		_			
				_			_	9	2	5	6 8	5 9	2	3	4	1
	3			4		8	5	8	6	4	7	3	1	2	5	ł
			6				2	1	5	2	3	4	8	6	9	t
			U				4	7	8	3	9	6	5	1	2	İ
Ω							a	4	9	6	2	1	7	8	3	Ī
ıυ	ı		l	1			וטו	F	4	0	1	7	_	_	~	T

5

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ELUDE

roulette, she said - "WHEEL" SEE

When asked if she thought they could win at

WEAKEN

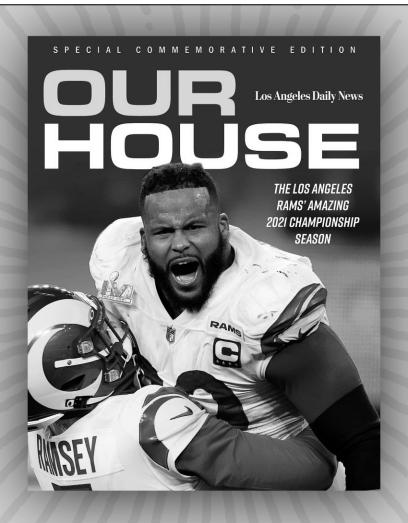
LIKELY



Jumbles: SHRUG

Answer:





OUR HOUSE

Relive the Rams' historic championship season with this commemorative keepsake, featuring in-depth and electrifying stories from our sister publication, Los Angeles Daily News.



Shop now at **tribpub.com/ramsbook** or call (866) 545-3534



Thanks to a new scan, lung cancer can be detected early when it's more curable.

If you smoked, get scanned.

Talk to your doctor or visit SavedByTheScan.org



SPORTS

COURANT.COM/SPORTS

BASEBALL

Out of the spotlight

Former East Catholic pitcher Mozzicato quietly making his MLB dream happen with the Royals

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

The shock and awe of the MLB draft, all the whirl-wind that goes with signing a seven-figure contract and being introduced in the big leagues are all past.

The hard work on the baseball fields is Frank Mozzicato's daily grind now in Surprise, Arizona, tucked far away from crowds and the spotlight.

"It's amazing," Mozzicato said after a work day last week. "It's everything I thought of and more. The staff out here is amazing. they're leading you in the right direction. You learn something new every day, which is awesome."

Mozzicato, the 18-year-old from Ellington and East Catholic High, begins his first professional spring training on Thursday, the day the Kansas City Royals' minor league pitchers and catchers report. The current lockout has Major Leagues Baseball on hold, but for the prospects, the work goes on. Mozzicato has been in Arizona since Jan. 30, when he reported for a short winter camp and stayed.

"Don't rush the process," he said.

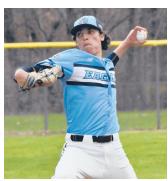
A year ago, Mozzicato was getting ready for his senior high school season, having lost his junior year in Connecticut due to COVID with no idea what was coming. A lefthanded pitcher, the 6-foot-3 Mozzicato rose high and fast on the scouting charts, especially when he began stringing not just scoreless but hitless innings together for East Catholic. He threw four consecutive no-hitters, had a 0.16 ERA and struck out 135 in 55 ½ innings, finishing with a one-hitter and 17 strikeouts in the Class M championship

It became obvious he would be drafted too high to pass up the pros for UConn, where he had committed. But the Royals defied even the highest projections when they took Mozzicato No. 7 overall, the highest a Connecticut high school player was selected since Bobby Valentine in 1968.

Mozzicato signed for a \$3.55 million bonus on July 17 and was off to Kansas City to meet the brass and his future teammates.

"It was amazing to feel that I was a part of it," he said. "It's a true honor to be in the Royals organization. The fan support is amazing. I can't wait to work my way up the system and,

Turn to Mozzicato, Page 2



East Catholic's Frank Mozzicato, throwing his curve for East Catholic last spring, begins spring training with the Royals, who drafted him No. 7 overall and signed him for \$3.55 million. COURANT FILE

NO. 7 UCONN WOMEN 69, MARQUETTE 38

UConn nails down another Big East regular season title

By Dom Amore Hartford Courant

UConn's Azzi Fudd shoots over

Marquette's Chloe Marotta for

won 69-38 at the XL Center on

Big East title. JESSICA HILL/AP

two of her 13 points as the Huskies

Wednesday. The victory clinched a

HARTFORD — This has not been anything close to a typical season for the UConn women's basketball team. With devastating injuries to their top players, absences due to illness, the schedule disrupted by COVID, the Huskies could take nothing for granted.

Nothing came easy, not even the regular-season conference title, which has for so long been a formality for the program.

So the Huskies have a right to savor their 69-38 victory over Marquette at the XL Center on Wednesday night, clinching the top spot in the Big East standings, and with it the No.1 seed for the tournament at Mohegan Sun next week. And by then, they could have their best player, Paige Bueckers, available.

"Winning is a difficult thing," coach Geno Auriemma. "Sometimes here in Connecticut, we've made it look like it's easy, and

people get the impression that winning is easy, and it's not. And winning all the time is not easy. ... I'm proud of this team, and everybody involved with the program should be proud."

As it is, their team nearly whole, the Huskies are on a five-game winning streak, with an average margin of victory of 32.8 points.

"It means more than any other season," senior Olivia Nelson-Ododa said. "Because we've had

Turn to UConn, Page 4

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL



UConn head coach Dan Hurley encourages the fans to get loud in the first half against Villanova on Tuesday at the XL Center. Minutes later, Hurley was ejected from the game after getting a second technical for the gesture. **CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

TECHNICAL KNOCKOUT

With Dan Hurley backstage, Huskies exemplified all he has built to finally overcome Big East beast Villanova



Dom Amore

HARTFORD — If UConn men's basketball coach Dan Hurley knew when to rein it in, knew how to control his passion, knew when to sit down and put a sock in it, the Huskies wouldn't be where they are today.

The Huskies wouldn't be basking in glow of the biggest victory for men's basketball since 2014, a 71-69 thriller over Villanova. They wouldn't be rising in the Big East and the national rankings, and they wouldn't have brought the madness back to Connecticut

with March still a week away. UConn brought Hurley here

UConn brought Hurley here four years ago to reignite a fire. What we witnessed at the XL Center on Tuesday night was a roaring inferno, not the final step by any means, but the crowd, the atmosphere and the level at which the Huskies played is all that Hurley has been building these last four years.

And with just a little more self-containment, he could have been there to experience all of it first hand. But you can't make Dan Hurley into something he's

not, and who would want that?
"Incredible win," Hurley said.
"The crowd, incredible, like
incredible, incredible atmosphere
in here, so uplifting. For me, a

Turn to Amore, Page 4



Hurley walks off the court after getting ejected during the first half Tuesday in Hartford. **JESSICA HILL/AP**



UP NEXT
UConn at Georgetown, noon Sunday, CBS

Safety Tip of the Day

Preparing to drive in winter weather? Review the sections of your owner's manual covering antilock brakes, traction control, and four-or all-wheel drive (if equipped) to make sure you are comfortable with their operation.



riscassi-davis.com

131 Oak Street • Hartford, Connecticut 860.522.1196 • 800.344.5297

UP NEXT

UConn MBB: at Georgetown, Sunday, noon; at Creighton, March 2, 8:30 p.m.; DePaul (Gampel), March 5, time

UConn WBB: St. John's (XL), Friday, 7 p.m.; Providence (Gampel), Sunday, 2 p.m.; Big East Quarterfinal vs. TBD, March 5, time TBD Celtics: at Nets.

Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; at Pistons, Saturday, noon; at Pacers, Sunday, 5 p.m. Knicks: Heat, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; 76ers, Sunday, 1 p.m.; at 76ers, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Nets: Celtics, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.: at Bucks.

Saturday, 8:30 p.m.; Raptors, Monday, 7:30 p.m. UConn hockey: at Northeastern, Friday, 7 p.m.; Northeastern, Saturday, 3 p.m.; Vermont, March 4,7 p.m.

Bruins: at Kraken. Thursday, 10 p.m.; at Sharks, Saturday, 10 p.m.; at Kings, Monday, 10:30 Rangers: Capitals,

Thursday, 7 p.m.; at Penguins, Saturday, 3 p.m.; Canucks, Sunday, 7:30 p.m.

Wolf Pack: at Springfield, Friday, 7 p.m.; Providence, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Providence, Sunday, 3 p.m.

BASKETBALL

11 a.m.: Women's College: Quinnipiac at Marist. (Live) ESPNU 6 p.m.: Women's College: Georgia Tech at Florida State. (Live) ACC 6 p.m.: Wagner at Fairleigh Dickinson. (Live)

6:30 p.m.: Women's College: Florida at Vanderbilt. (Live) SEC 7 p.m.: Temple at Memphis. (Live) ESPN2 7 p.m.: South Carolina Upstate at Winthrop. (Live) ESPNU 7 p.m.: Maryland at Indiana. (Live) FS1

7:30 p.m.: Celtics at Nets. (Live) TNT 8 p.m.: Women's College: Clemson at Notre Dame.

(Live) ACC 8 p.m.: DePaul at Georgetown. (Live)

CBSSN

8:30 p.m.: Women's College: South Carolina at Texas A&M. (Live) SEC 9 p.m.: Gonzaga at San Francisco. (Live) ESPN2 9 p.m.: Belmont at Murray State. (Live)

ESPNU 9 p.m.: Ohio State at Illinois. (Live) FS1 9:30 p.m.: UCLA at Oregon. (Live) ESPN

10 p.m.: Loyola Marymount at BYU. (Live) CBSSN 10 p.m.: Warriors at Trail

Blazers, (Live) TNT 11 p.m.: USC at Oregon State. (Live) ESPN2 11 p.m.: Arizona at Utah. (Live) FS1 **GOLF**

2 p.m.: Honda Classic. First Round. (Live) GOLF **HOCKEY**

7 p.m.: Capitals at Rangers. (Live) SPRTNET 10 p.m.: Bruins at Kraken.

(Live), NESN 11 p.m.: Flames at Canucks. (Live) SPRTNET I.ACROSSE

4 p.m.: Women's College: North Carolina at Pittsburgh. (Live) ACC

YANKEES

Coaches look for right post-lockout formula

By Kristie Ackert New York Daily News

TAMPA, Fla. — Less than 10 miles away, the heart of the Yankees lineup has progressed to taking live batting practice. Because the owners locked out the players, however, new hitting coach Dillon Lawson has been left to wonder how he will get to know his new hitters and get them ready for a season, whenever the labor dispute is settled and players can report to camp.

"Right now what we can do is over-prepare. It would be unrealistic to think that if it gets super short like (the three weeks they had in 2020) that we're going to be able to cover everything and you wouldn't want ... the players to have that kind of experience anyways, especially with some new coaches," Lawson said Tuesday at the Yankees minor league minicamp. "And you want to have some of the built-in downtime, to have those conversations. Just be able to build those relationships. But yeah, I mean, we're preparing for all scenarios. Right now we have the time to do that."

With MLB and the union stepping up negotiations down in the southern part of the state, Lawson and the Yankees big league staff are limited to "over preparing," their plans. Lawson, who is based in Tampa, has also been at the player development complex helping out with the minor league minicamp.

Spring training has already been pushed back until at least March 5 and with little progress coming out of the meetings this week, the March 31 scheduled Opening Day is in jeopardy. After having a condensed ramp-up in 2020 because of shutting down spring training for nearly four months because of the coronavirus, MLB recognized that is too short of a time to ask players to get ready. MLB commissioner Rob Manfred suggested that they would probably try to have at least four weeks of training camp before a season.

For Lawson, while he is prohibited by the lockout from contact with the hitters, he's counting on the fact that they are ramping up in workouts on their own.



Matt Barnes plays against the Twins during the ninth inning Aug. 24, 2021, in Boston. MICHAEL DWYER/AP

RED SOX

Still important

Barnes, from All-Star closer to playoff roster snub, remains a key component for Boston's 2022 season

By Jason Mastrodonato

Boston Herald

BOSTON - In a matter of sevendays in July, Matt Barnes was elevated from a very good reliever on an expiring contract to an All-Star closer with a long-term contract extension.

With one of the best first halves by any reliever in Red Sox history, Barnes earned his first career All-Star nod on July 4 after striking out 16 batters per

A week later. Barnes received more good news when the Sox presented him with the paperwork for a contract extension worth up to \$24.5 million over three years, with \$18.75 million guaranteed.

The 31-year-old Connecticut native was on top of the world, carrying a 2.61 ERA with 19 saves into his press conference announcing the deal.

"The one thing I always said, and I made this clear to (chief baseball officer Chaim Bloom) and everybody, I just wanted a fair contact for what I was doing," Barnes said. "And we were able to not only come to do that. But when you add everything else to the equation. this is a place I wanted to stay."

The Red Sox couldn't print the paperwork fast enough. It looked like they had struck one of the best contracts of Bloom's young career.

Elite closers were going for \$14 to \$17 million a year in free agency. Barnes was about to hit the market as an All-Star. But the Red Sox scooped him up at half the cost of what the Yankees were paying their closer, Aroldis Chapman (\$17.2 million per year).

"We've all seen it over the last

number of years, Matt has established himself as one of the better relievers in baseball," Bloom said. "And this year he's taken his game to a whole new level in an even bigger role."

The All-Star Game was two days later, and Barnes made his debut in the eighth inning with the American League clinging to a 5-2 lead. But Barnes, who later said he was just trying to enjoy the moment and wasn't overly concerned with results, looked off.

He threw just 14 strikes on 25 pitches, walking two, allowing a linedrive single and falling behind 3-0 to Kris Bryant with the bases loaded before he threw a juicy fastball over the plate. Bryant smoked it to left field, but Jared Walsh made a sliding catch to end the inning and avoid embarrassment for the Sox' closer.

"Holy (expletive)," Barnes appeared to say as he walked off the field.

Looking back, it was the beginning of the end of Barnes' remarkable season.

The question

What happened to Barnes in the second half?

The day to look at is June 15. It was about 10 days after the report of MLB's upcoming crackdown on sticky substances.

Through June 15, Barnes' fastball was as good as it's ever been. He averaged 97 mph, threw it aggressively for strikes, allowed just an 87 mph average exit velocity and held batters to a .189 average on that pitch.

After June 15, Barnes' fastball looked anything but elite. It averaged 96 mph, allowed a 92 mph exit velocity and got hit at a .294 clip. Without getting results on his fastball to set up his premium curve. Barnes had no answers

"I think frustrated is probably a bit of an understatement," he said in August. The Red Sox spent the next four

months trying to figure it out, but never came up with any answers. "I cannot tell you if it's mental, but one thing for sure, attacking guys was a big part of what he was doing early in

the season and he's not doing that right

now," manager Alex Cora said in August. Barnes contracted COVID-19, missed some time and never was able to put it

His final save was recorded on Aug. 4 and he finished the season as one of the last options out of the bullpen. He was left off the postseason roster.

And this, too

The Red Sox have done little to address their bullpen this offseason. They've added a few starters, including Michael Wacha, Rich Hill and James Paxton, which could enable them to keep Tanner Houck and Garrett Whitlock in the 'pen.

Who will be the closer? Ryan Brasier, Darwinzon Hernandez and Josh Taylor are the other returning relievers Cora seems to trust.

But the Sox won't give up on their 31-year-old All-Star.

"He's still a really good pitcher, we know that," Cora said after the '21 season ended. "I hate to guarantee things, but I know he will be very important to what we're trying to accomplish next year."

Mozzicato

from Page 1

when my time is right, make an impact."

That will be a slow process for an arm so young. The Royals did not have their high school draftees pitch in minor league games last summer but worked with them on the side. In the fall instructional league, Mozzicato threw in a couple of games before coming home with a winter to-do list that including throwing, conditioning and weight training.

"I had three or four outings in instruction camp and did okay," he said. "There were a huge string of changes from high school. The guys at the plate changed."

Mozzicato spends most of his time working out with Paul Gibson, Mitch Stetter and Mark Davis, all lefties and former major leaguers working as pitching coaches in the Royals system.

"You just kind of connect with them from the start," Mozzicato said. "They're going to guide me. If something's off, they're going to say 'try this,' but they're not going to try to change me. They want me to do what I'm comfortable with."

Mozzicato is sticking with his fastball and curve, working on improving his command and his focus on the mound, keeping his pitches low, while hitting the right spots when he goes high in the strike zone. The Royals have two rookie league entries in the Arizona League, a likely destination for Mozzicato. Their low Class A affiliate is in Columbia, South Carolina.

"Baseball is such a mental game, the more pressure you have the better you think you have to do. Your mind starts racing. I'd rather be calm, cool, collected. So nothing's different. still the same old

Having been drafted so high, Mozzicato's progress will be charted closely by Royals fans and followers, but he plans on rolling with the scrutiny, just as he did when dozens of scouts were coming to every high school start.

"I don't feel any pressure," said Mozzicato, who stays in touch with his high school teammates via group texts. "I don't put any pressure on myself. Just like the high school season, I love playing baseball, I love going out on the mound and pitching, so what's there for pressure? I'm going out there because I love to do it, I enjoy it, and I'm having fun with

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@ courant.com

GIANTS

Trade may be best option for RB Barkley

By Pat Leonard New York Daily News

NEW YORK - Saquon Barkley would be better off on another

The Giants need to cut their losses on inefficient investments and spend differently in order to clean up their salary cap and build a winning, sustainable product.

Some candidates for the Giants' head coaching vacancy actually viewed a Barkley trade as a necessary early move if they'd been

So it makes sense for the team to trade Barkley, who is owed \$7.2 million on his fifth-year option in

But the other reason a trade could and should happen is that it would be best for Barkley too.

Barkley, 25, likely would never say this publicly. He is too aware and intelligent about his business and brand. And he has typically been publicly accountable for his

and the team's failures, outside of a monthlong absence from the public view last season.

But he undoubtedly would welcome a change if it came.

Think about it: This is the most important year of Barkley's career from an earnings perspective. He is playing for a lucrative second

He has struggled to stay healthy with the Giants. He has been weighed down by all the losing and the pressure to fix everything with a big play on every touch.

The Giants aren't poised to field a top NFL offense this fall. And Barkley needs three things in 2022: to stay healthy, to perform and to

The point is this:

If Barkley doesn't have to be an every-down player on a good team, and he can thrive as a big play spark, it would improve his chances of staying healthy and making a difference in games that

And that could get him paid more like the back that the Giants drafted him to be.

Of course, before new Giants GM Joe Schoen makes any big decision about his offense, he has to answer whether that move is best for Daniel Jones.

Ownership's and Schoen's preference in 2022 is to give Jones a fair shot at proving he's a franchise quarterback. Barkley is talented, and the Giants aren't stocked with elite playmakers, so trading him would remove some skill from their offense.

Still, if Schoen has a modern understanding of positional value and if he's truly here to undo Dave Gettleman's damage - what better way to reset the Giants' course than to move on from Gettleman's defining miscalculation: the selection of Barkley No. 2 overall in the 2018 NFL Draft.

John Mara and Steve Tisch routinely have made the mistake of trying to win now - and overesti-



Giants running back Saquon Barkley takes the field to face the Cowboys on Dec. 19 in East Rutherford, New Jersey. ADAM HUNGER/AP

mating their team's ability - rather than patiently building a sustainable product.

Not trading Barkley seemingly would risk one of two unappealing scenarios after the 2022 season: either the Giants would have to pay him big money on an oversized second NFL contract, or they could lose him in free agency for only a

compensatory draft pick. So even if Barkley had a bounce-

back year, would it be worth it for the Giants in the long run?

The harsh truth is that Barkley's liability in pass protection and poor fundamentals don't help his cause for being irreplaceable. Devontae Booker's superb play at a \$2.5 million cap hit last season while Barkley was injured at \$10 million also reinforced that the Giants could spend their money more wisely elsewhere.

SCOREBOARD

NHL							
EASTERN C		FEI W			E PTS	GF	GA
Florida		35	11	5	75	212	151
Tampa Bay	49	32			70	169	139
Toronto	50	32	14		68	179	141
Boston		29	17	•	62	145	139
Detroit		23		-	52	147	176
Ottawa	50		26	-	43	134	159
Buffalo	51		27		40	138	182
Montreal	51		33		29	117	197
METRO.	GP	W	L	ОТ	PTS	GF	GΑ
Carolina	50	35	11	4	74	176	121
	50 52		11 13	-	74 70	176 173	121 140
	52	31	13	8			
Pittsburgh	52 50	31	13 13	8	70	173	140
Pittsburgh N.Y. Rangers	52 50 52	31 32	13 13 15	8 5 9	70 69	173 151	140 127
Pittsburgh N.Y. Rangers Washington	52 50 52 50	31 32 28 26	13 13 15 23	8 5 9	70 69 65	173 151 171	140 127 145
Pittsburgh N.Y. Rangers Washington Columbus	52 50 52 50 46	31 32 28 26 19	13 13 15 23	8 5 9 1 7	70 69 65 53	173 151 171 167	140 127 145 183
Pittsburgh N.Y. Rangers Washington Columbus N.Y. Islanders	52 50 52 50 46	31 32 28 26 19 15	13 13 15 23 20	8 5 9 1 7	70 69 65 53 45	173 151 171 167 116	140 127 145 183 128
Pittsburgh N.Y. Rangers Washington Columbus N.Y. Islanders Philadelphia	52 50 52 50 46 51 50	31 32 28 26 19 15 17	13 15 23 20 26 28	8 5 9 1 7 10 5	70 69 65 53 45 40 39	173 151 171 167 116 129	140 127 145 183 128 180
Pittsburgh N.Y. Rangers Washington Columbus N.Y. Islanders Philadelphia New Jersey	52 50 52 50 46 51 50	31 32 28 26 19 15 17	13 15 23 20 26 28	8 5 9 1 7 10 5	70 69 65 53 45 40 39	173 151 171 167 116 129 146	140 127 145 183 128 180

WESTERN (O	IFE	RE	NC	Ε		
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	ОТ	PTS	GF	GΑ
Colorado	50	36	10	4	76	199	143
St. Louis	50	30	14	6	66	179	138
Minnesota	48	31	14	3	65	186	147
Nashville	51	29	18	4	62	159	147
Dallas	49	27	20	2	56	143	145
Winnipeg	50	22	20	8	52	145	150
Chicago	52	18	26	8	44	126	176
Arizona	50	13	33	4	30	114	186
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	ОТ	PTS	GF	GΑ
Calgary	49	30	13	6	66	169	114
Vegas	51	29	18	4	62	169	150
Edmonton	50	28	19	3	59	168	161
Los Angeles	50	26	17	7	59	147	141
Anaheim	53	25	19	9	59	160	161
Vancouver	52	24	22	6	54	140	148

51 29 18 4 62 169 150 50 28 19 3 59 168 161 50 26 17 7 59 147 141 53 25 19 9 59 160 161 52 24 22 6 54 140 148 50 22 22 6 50 134 158 53 16 33 4 36 137 190 Vancouver San Jose **NOTE:** Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS Buffalo at Montreal, late Colorado at Detroit, late Edmonton at Tampa Bay, late Winnipeg at Dallas, late Los Angeles at Arizona, late

THURSDAY'S GAMES Columbus at Florida, 7p.m. Minnesota at Toronto, 7p.m. New Jersey at Pittsburgh, 7p.m. Washington at N.Y. Rangers, 7p.m. Dallas at Nashville, 8:30p.m. Boston at Seattle, 10p.m. Calgary at Vancouver, 10p.m. N.Y. Islanders at San Jose, 10:30p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES Columbus at Carolina, 7p.m. Buffalo at St. Louis, 8p.m. New Jersey at Chicago, 8:30p.m. Winnipeg at Colorado, 9p.m. Vegas at Arizona, 9:30p.m. Los Angeles at Anaheim, 10p.m.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS Ottawa 4, Minnesota 3 St. Louis 4, Philadelphia Columbus 4, Toronto 3 (OT) Nashville 6, Florida 4 N.Y. Islanders 5, Seattle 2 Anaheim 4, San Jose 3 (SO)

DEFENSEMI CAREER	EN GA GP	ME:	S PL/ A	YED PTS	+/-
Zdeno Chara			467	674	297
Chris Chelios	1,651	185	763	948	351
Scott Stevens	1,635	196	712	908	395
Larry Murphy	1,615	288	929	1217	197
Ray Bourque	1,612	410	1169	1579	527
Nik. Lidström	1,564	264	878	1142	450
Phil Housley	1,495	338	894	1232	-53
Glen Wesley	1,457	128	409	537	66
Tim Horton	1,445	115	403	518	191
Luke Richardso	n1,417	35	166	201	-119
through Tuesd	av				

ATP DUBAI DUTY FREE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS At Dubai Tennis Stadium, Dubai, U.A.E. hardcourt-outdoors MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16

#1 Novak Djokovic d. Karen Khachanov, 6-3, 7-6(2). #2 Andrey Rubley d. Kwon Soon Woo. 4-6, 6-0, 6-3. #4 Jannik Sinner d. Andy Murray, 7-5, 6-2

#5 Hubert Hurkacz d. Alex Molcan, #6 Denis Shapovalov d. Taro Daniel,

Jiri Vesely d. #8 Roberto Bautista Agut 6-2, 6-4. Mackenzie McDonald d. Filip Krajinovic, 6-4, 7-6(7). Ricardas Berankis d. Alexei Popyrin, 6-4, 7-6(7).

WTA OATAR OPEN At Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex, Doha, Qata, outdoors-hard WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16

#15 Jelena Ostapenko d. #2 Barbora Krejcikova, 6-3, 6-2. #14 Coco Gauff d. #3 Paula Badosa,

#5 Garbine Muguruza d. Madison Brengle, 6-0, 6-2. #6 Maria Sakkari d. #9 Jessica Pegula,

#4 Anett Kontaveit d. #16 Elise Mertens,

#7 Iga Swiatek d. Daria Kasatkina, #8 Ons Jabeur d. Tereza Martincova. 6-1, 3-6, 6-3. Aryna Sabalenka d. Jil Teichmann, 6-2, 6-1

ATP CHILE OPEN At Club Deportivo Universidad Catolica, Santiago, Chile, outdoor-Red clay MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16

#2 Albert Ramos-Vinolas vs. Carlos Taberner, late Thiago Monteiro d. #3 Federico Delbonis, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1. #7 Sebastian Baez d. Juan Ignacio Londero, 6-3, 6-3, #8 Facundo Bagnis d. Hugo Dellien,

WTA ABIERTO AKRON ZAPOPAN At Panamerican Tennis Center, Guada-lajara, Mexico, outdoors-hardcourt WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16 Wang Qiang d. Harmony Tan, 6-4, 6-2. Magdalena Frech d. Renata Zarazua, 7-6(5), 4-6, 6-4, Anna Kalinskaya d. Xinyu Wang, 6-4, 0-6, 6-4.

Marie Bouzkova vs. Lucia Bronzetti, late Anna Karolina Schmiedlova vs. Anastasia Potapova, late ATP ABIERTO MEXICANO TELCEL

AT APPEN GNP SEGUROS., Acapulco, Mexico; outdoors-hardcourt MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16 #1 Daniil Medvedev d. Pablo Andujar,

Peter Gojowczyk d. #2 Alexander Zverev, walkover #3 Stefanos Tsitsipas vs. Jeffrey John Wolf, late #4 Rafael Nadal vs. Stefan Kozlov, late #6 Cameron Norrie vs. John Isner, late #7 Taylor Fritz vs. Yoshihito Nishioka, late #8 Pablo Carreno Busta vs.

Marcos Giron, late Tommy Paul vs. Dusan Lajovic, late

GOLF **PGA TOUR SCORING AVERAGE**

RK. GOLFER	RD	AVG	TOT
1. Collin Morikawa	16	69.181	1,073
2. Cameron Smith	22	69.432	1,487
Russell Henley	36	69.533	2,452
4. Patrick Cantlay	20	69.612	1,355
5. Justin Thomas	24	69.713	1,623
6. Matt Fitzpatrick	16	69.715	1,101
Scottie Scheffler	34	69.738	2,326
8. Maverick McNealy	38	69.745	2,608
9. Mackenzie Hughes	28	69.814	1,927
10. Denny McCarthy	38	69.831	2,610
11. Sungjae Im	34	69.872	2,313
12. Joaquin Niemann	28	69.877	1,921
13. Jon Rahm	22	69.880	1,499
14. Marc Leishman	32	69.889	2,180
15. Seamus Power	40	69.894	2,734
16. Adam Scott	24	69.905	1,649
17. Tom Hoge	48	69.932	3,302
18. Hideki Matsuvama	36	69.944	2,457

CONFERENCE STANDINGS Miami .644 21 23 23 24 26 25 28 30 31 31 34 40 45 47 Chicago Philadelphia .603 2½ 2½ 4½ Cleveland 35 36 34 32 31 28 29 27 25 20 13 .603 .600 .567 .561 .525 .483 Toronto Brooklyr Charlotte 91/2 .466 .424 .333 .224 .217 10½ 13 18½ Indiana Detroit Orlando W L PCT WEST 10 17 19 22 24 25 28 31 31 34 36 36 38 40 43 .828 Phoenix .712 .683 Golden State Memphis Dallas .593 .569 131/2 .525 .492 .466 .424 .390 .390 .367 .310 .259 L.A. Clippers 30 27 25 23 23 191/2 L.A. Lakers San Antonio 251/2 New Orleans Sacramento Oklahoma City 18 15

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

THURSDAY'S GAMES Boston at Brooklyn, 7:30p.m. Atlanta at Chicago, 8p.m. Memphis at Minnesota, 8p.m. Phoenix at Oklahoma City, 8p.m. Denver at Sacramento, 10p.m. Golden State at Portland, 10p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES Houston at Orlando, 7p.m. Oklahoma City at Indiana, 7p.m. San Antonio at Washington, 7p.m. Toronto at Charlotte, 7p.m. Miami at New York, 7:30p.m. Philadelphia at Minnesota, 8p.m Dallas at Utah, 9p.m. New Orleans at Phoenix, 9p.m. L.A. Clippers at L.A. Lakers, 10p.m.

SCORING LEA		_		
OVERALL FG%	3 P %	FT%	PPG	OPP
Charlotte .456	.356	.737	113.8	114.7
Memphis .459	.341	.734	113.8	109.0
Utah .473		.783	113.7	106.9
Phoenix .482	.360	.791	113.7	105.5
Minnesota .447	.347	.763	113.2	111.7
Milwaukee .460		.775	113.2	109.8
Chicago .483		.817	112.6	110.4
Atlanta .468		.807	112.2	111.8
San Antonio.466		.743	111.8	111.7
LA Lakers .466		.720	110.9	112.4
Brooklyn .467		.806	110.8	110.8
Golden St466		.763	110.6	103.7
Denver .473		.790	109.9	107.8
Sacramento.456		.765	109.9	114.9
Indiana .457		.761	109.3	112.0
Boston .453		.814	108.9	103.5
Miami .460		.812	108.9 108.7	104.4
Toronto .443 Houston .451		.758 .716	108.7	106.9 118.1
Portland .449		.762	108.3	112.0
Philadelphia.462		.813	107.5	106.0
Washingotn.464	.328	.780	107.1	109.8
LA Clippers.455		.782	106.9	107.7
Cleveland .466		.755	106.7	102.5
Dallas .455 New Orleans .447		.766	106.6	103.3
			106.3	109.5
New York .434		.752	105.1	106.6
Orlando .433 Detroit .421		.787 .775	103.3 102.6	112.0 112.6
Okla. City .418	3 .313	.762	101.2	107.8

ROOKIE SCORING	тм	PP	G G	PTS
Karl-An. Towns	Min	24.4	1269	.522
Zach LaVine	Chi	24.6	1156	.482
Devin Booker	Phx	25.5	1300	.446
Jayson Tatum	Bos	25.7	1439	.434
Donovan Mitchell	Utah	25.7	1184	.456
Stephen Curry	GS	25.8	1393	.427
Nikola Jokic	Den	26.0	1352	.570
Ja Morant	Mem	26.8	1233	.495
Luka Doncic	Dal	27.5	1212	.449
Trae Young	Atl	27.8	1475	.456
DeMar DeRozan	Chi	28.1	1547	.517
Antetokounmpo		23.4	1443	.541
Giannis	Mil		1443	
Joel Embiid	Phi	29.6	1361	495

TM PPG PTS FG%

OVERALL

ROOKIE SCORING	TM	PPG	G	PTS
Cade Cunningham	Det	15.7	44	692
Franz Wagner	Orl	15.6	60	935
Evan Mobley	Cle	14.9	50	743
Jalen Green	Hou	14.6	43	627
Scottie Barnes	Tor	14.4	49	706
Chris Duarte	Ind	13.4	50	671
Josh Giddey	OKC	12.4	53	659
Davion Mitchell	Sac	10.4	53	551
Cam Thomas	Brk	9.8	48	470
Herbert Jones	NO	9.6	56	536
Bones Hyland	Den	8.8	46	403
Tre Mann	OKC	8.7	45	390
Alperen Sengun	Hou	8.7	50	437
Ayo Dosunmu	Chi	8.1	54	440
Jonathan Kuminga	GS	8.0	47	374

30114111411114	9				
BENCH	MN	PT	FG%	3 P %	FT%
San Antonio	18.7	40.3	.455	.343	.768
Houston	18.9	39.6	.452	.326	.733
Washington	18.9	38.9	.481	.317	.748
Detroit LA Clippers Miami Utah Memphis	18.5	38.6	.423	.298	.746
LA Clippers	19.3	38.5	.448	.357	.752
Miami	17.4	38.3	45.6	.377	.783
Utah	17.1	37.3	.443	.330	.765
Memphis	19.6	37.1	.458	.327	.658
LA Lakers	19.2	36.6	.453	.3/4	./49
Golden St Dhooniy	19.5	30.4	.466	.321	./ 14
LA Lakers Golden St Phoenix Cleveland	16.7	20.4	400	.333	7//
Okla. City	10.0	35.0	400	327	720
Minnesota	18.0	35.7	423	338	746
Minnesota Denver Indiana	17.8	35.7	419	358	776
Indiana	17.5	35.3	.434	.320	.751
Brooklyn	17.9	35.0	.473	.340	.705
Orlando	18.1	34.9	.414	.325	.759
New York	17.8	34.9	.432	.339	.823
Brooklyn Orlando New York Atlanta	17.6	34.8	.435	.365	.842
Charlotte Dallas	16.5	34.3	.447	.358	.699
Dallas	17.9	33.9	.439	.324	.748
New Orleans	16.5	30.9	.422	.306	.758
Portland	16.4	29.7	.439	.326	.742
Boston Philadelphia Milwaukee	16.3	28.7	.420	.363	.829
Philadelphia	15.6	2/.7	.427	.333	./59
Milwaukee	17.3	26.8	.396	.328	.794
Chicago	15.5	26.5	.479	.3/5	./36
Toronto	13.7	23.0	.424	.290	.714

Toronto	13.7	23.0	.424	.290	.71
BENCH SCOR Tyler Herro Kelly Oubre J Jordan Clark Montrezl Hai	r. son	MIA CHA UTA	41	MN 31.6 26.6 26.3 24.2	19.9 16.2 15.4
Buddy Hield Kevin Love Carmelo Ant Devin Vassel Luke Kennar Minimum 36	d d	CLE LAL SA LAC	48 47 39 40	27.5 22.3 26.3 24.5 26.6	14.0 13.9 13.0 11.2 11.2

	_			
ODD	S			
COLLE		ETB/	ALL	THURSDAY
	heastern	9		Wm. & Marv
at Oakl			urdu	e Fort Wayne
at Mid.		91/2	uruu	Marshall
at India		7		Maryland
at Hofs		13		Elon
at Mem		12		Temple
at Tarle		7	шт	Rio Grande at
	souri St.	61/2	UII	Tenn. Martin
Buffalo				at No. Illinois
		111/2		
at UMK		3		South Dakota
	akota St.		at	Oral Roberts
at UIC		8		Green Bay
	ne Chr	17		Lamar
DePaul		21/2	at	t Georgetown

NBA		1	THURSDAY
FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	UNDERDOG
Cleveland	9	(2111/2)	at Detroit
Boston	61/2	(2131/2)	at Brooklyn
at Chicago	31/2	(2341/2)	Atlanta
Memphis	3	(239) a	ıt Minnesota
Phoenix	10	(215)	at Okla. City
Denver	41/2	(2311/2)	at Sacramento
Golden State	9	(2231/2)	at Portland
NHL			THURSDAY
EAVODITE	LIME	HINDER	DOC LINE

Golden State	9	(22372) at POI	lianu
NHL		THURS	DAY
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
at Toronto	-137	Minnesota	+114
at Florida	-345	Columbus	+270
at NY Rangers	-118	Washington	-102
at Pittsburgh	-345	New Jersey	+270
at Nashville	-146	Dallas	+122
Calgary	-182	at Vancouver	+150
Boston	-250	at Seattle	+202
NY Islanders	-111	at San Jose	-110
For the latest of	odds, g	go to	
FanDuel Sports	sbook	,	
https://sportsi	book.	fanduel.com/	

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED

1. Gonzaga (23-2) did not play. Next: at San Francisco, Thursday 2. Arizona (24-2) did not play. Next: at Utah, Thursday.

3. Auburn (24-3) vs. Mississippi. Next: 4. Purdue (24-4) did not play. Next: at Michigan State, Saturday. 5. Kansas (23-4) did not play. Next: at #10 Baylor, Saturday. 6. Kentucky (22-5) vs. LSU. Next: at #18 Arkansas, Saturday 7. Duke (24-4) beat Virginia 65-61. 8. Villanova (21-7) did not play. Next: vs. #11 Providence, Tuesday, March 1. 9. Texas Tech (22-6) did not play. 10. Baylor (23-5) did not play. Next: vs. #5 Kansas, Saturday 11. Providence (22-3) vs. Xavier. Next: vs. Creighton, Saturday.
12. UCLA (20-5) did not play. Next: at Oregon, Thursday.

13. Wisconsin (21-5) at Minr Next: at Rutgers, saturday 14. Houston (22-4) at Tulane. Next: vs. SMU, Sunday.

15. Illinois (19-7) did not play. 16. Southern Cal (23-4) did not play. Next: at Oregon State, Thursday 17. Tennessee (20-7) did not play Next: vs. #3 Auburn, Saturday. 18. Arkansas (22-6) did not play. Next: vs. #5 Kentucky, Saturday.

19. Murray State (26-2) did not play. Next: vs. Belmont, Thursday. 20. Texas (19-8) vs. TCU. Next: at West Virginia, Saturday
21. UConn (20-7) did not play. Next: at Georgetown, Sunday. 22. Ohio State (17-7) did not play. Next: at Maryland, Sunday next: at Maryland, Sunday.
23 Saint Mary's (Cal) (22-6) did not play. Next: at San Diego, Thursday.
24. Alabama (18-10) did not play.
Next: vs. South Carolina, Saturday.
25. lowa (19-8) did not play.
Next: at Maryland, Saturday.

WEDNESDAY'S SCORE

Next: at Nebraska, Friday.

Army 73, Bucknell 60 Boston U. 76, Lafayette 60 Colgate 78, Holy Cross 71 Creighton 81, St. John's 78 Davidson 74, Duquesne 50 Fordham 60, La Salle 54 Lehigh 78, American 61 Mass.-Lowell 67, Stony Brook 50 New Hampshire 83, NJIT 55 SOUTH

Boston College 69, NC State 61 Cent. Arkansas 81. North Alabama 72 High Point 78, NC A&T 58 Jacksonville 71, North Florida 39 Jacksonville St. 81, E. Kentucky 68 Kennesaw St. 75, Stetson 71 Longwood 71, Radford 66 Presbyterian 68, Chas. Southern 48 South Carolina 66, Mississippi St. 56 Wofford 83, VMI 72 MIDWEST

Bellarmine 76, Lipscomb 73 Dayton 82, UMass 61 Drake 71, Valparaiso 65 Michigan 71, Rutgers 62 Notre Dame 79, Syracuse 69

Derek St. Hilaire

MEN'S INDIVIDUAL LEADERS					
POINTS/GAME	SCHOOL	PPG			
Peter Kiss	Bryant	24.8			
Darius McGhee	Liberty	23.8			
Antoine Davis	Detroit Mercy	23.5			
Keegan Murray	Iowa	23.5			
Max Abmas	Oral Roberts	22.6			
Terrell Brown	Washington	21.8			
Kofi Cockburn	Illinois	21.7			
Bryce Hamilton	UNLV	21.7			
Graham Ike	Wyoming	21.1			

Wisconsin

New Orleans

WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED Next: at Texas A&M, Thursday No. 2 Stanford (23-3) did not play No. 3 NC State (25-3) did not play. Next: at No. 23 Virginia Tech. Sunday No. 4 Louisville (23-3) did not play Next: at Pittsburgh, Thursday.
No. 5 Baylor (22-5) at Oklahoma State No. 6 Michigan (21-4) did not play. Next: vs. Michigan State, Thursday. No. 7 UConn (20-5) beat Marquette 69-38. Next: vs. St. John's, Friday. No. 8 LSU (223-4) did not play. No. 9 Iowa State (22-4) at Kansas. Next: vs, Texas Tech, Saturday. No. 10 Indiana (19-6) did not play. Next: at No. 13 Maryland, Friday. No. 11 Texas (19-6) at Kansas State. No. 12 Arizona (19-5) did not play. Next: vs. UCLA, Thursday. No. 13 Maryland (20-7) did not play. Next: vs. No. 10 Indiana, Friday. No. 14 Notre Dame (20-6) did not play. Next: vs. Clemson, Thursday No. 15 Florida (20-7) did not play. Next: at Vanderbilt, Thursday No. 16 Tennessee (21-6) did not play. Next: vs. Mississippi State, Thursday. No. 17 Ohio State (20-5) did not play. No. 18 North Carolina (21-5) did not play. Next: at Virginia, Thursday. No. 19 BYU (23-2) did not play. Next: at. Santa Clara, Thursday. No. 20 Oklahoma (21-6) at TCU 92-57. Next: vs. Kansas State, S No. 21 lowa (18-7) did not play. Next: at Rutgers, Thursday. No. 22 Georgia Tech (19-8) did not play. Next: at Florida State, Thursday. No. 23 Virginia Tech (20-7) did not play. Next vs Miami Thursda No. 24 Florida Gulf Coast (24-2) did not play. Next: at Liberty, Thursday. No. 25 Georgia (18-8) did not play. Next: at Arkansas, Thursday. No. 25 Oregon (18-9) at Colorado. Next:

ENGLISH PREI	MIE GP					GA	PT
Man City	26	20	3	3	63	17	63
Liverpool	26	18	6	2	70	20	60
Chelsea	25	14	8	3	49	18	50
Man United	26	13	7	6	44	34	46
West Ham	26	12	6	8	45	34	42
Arsenal	23		3	7	36	26	42
Wolverhampton	24	12	4	_	23	18	40
Tottenham	24	12	_	_	31	32	39
Brighton	25		12	_	25		
Southampton	25		11	7	32	37	32
Crystal Palace	26	6	11	9	36		29
Leicester	23	-	_		37		27
Aston Villa	24	_	_	13		37	27
Brentford	26	6	_	14		42	24
Leeds	25	-			29		23
Everton	23	6	4	13	28	40	22
Newcastle	24	4	10	10	26	45	22
Burnley	23		11		21		20
Watford	25	_	_		25		18
Norwich	25	4	5	16	15	53	17

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS Burnley 1, Tottenham 0 Crystal Palace 4, Watford 1 Liverpool 6, Leeds 0

FRIDAY'S MATCH

THURSDAY'S MATCH Arsenal vs. Wolverhampton, 2:45p.m.

Southampton vs. Norwich, 3p.m. **UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE** WEDNESDAY'S LEG Atletico Madrid 1, Manchester United 1 Benfica 2, Ajax 2

U.S. WOMEN'S SCHEDULE s-Wednesday: vs. Iceland, late s-SheBelieves Cup

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER SATURDAY'S MATCHES

Minnesota at Philadelphia, 1p.m. Vancouver at Columbus, 3:30p.m. Colorado at Los Angeles FC, 3:30p.m. Toronto FC at FC Dallas, 5:30p.m. FC Cincinnati at Austin FC, 6 p.m. Charlotte FC at D.C. United, 6p.m. Chicago at Inter Miami CF, 6 p.m. N.Y. Red Bulls at San Jose, 6p.m. New England at Portland, 7:30p.m



Mets pitcher Max Scherzer arrives for baseball labor talks Wednesday in Jupiter, Florida. The two sides met for a third straight day but there was reportedly little progress. RON BLUM/AP

BASEBALL

MLB: Deal soon or shorter season

League says if no agreement by Monday, games will be cut

By Ronald Blum Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. – Major League Baseball said only five days remain to salvage March 31 openers and a full season, telling locked out players that games would be canceled if a labor contract is not agreed to by the end

After the third straight day of negotiations with little movement, MLB went public with what it told the union Feb. 12.

"A deadline is a deadline. Missed games are missed games. Salary will not be paid for those games," an MLB spokesman said after Wednesday's bargaining ended.

Players haven't accepted Monday as a deadline and have suggested any missed games could be made up as part of doubleheaders, a method MLB said it will not

The union told MLB that if games are missed and salaries are lost, clubs should not expect players to agree to management's proposals to expand the postseason and to allow advertisements on uniforms.

Bargaining is scheduled to continue Thursday, and both sides said they're prepared to meet through Monday.

A shortened season would be baseball's second in three years following a 2020 schedule cut from 162 games to 60 because of the coronavirus pandemic. The last seasons truncated by labor strife were during the strike that ended the 1994 schedule on Aug. 12 and caused the start of the following season to be delayed from April 2 to April $\widetilde{25}$. The 1995 schedule was cut from 162 games to 144.

Players are paid only during the regular season, accruing 1/162nd of their salary daily. Players would be subject to losing as much as \$232,975 daily in the case of Mets pitcher Max Scherzer, or as little as \$3,441 for a player at a \$640,000 minimum.

Baseball's work stoppage was in its 84th day, and the three sessions this week increased the total on core economic issues to just nine since the stoppage began Dec. 2. Spring training workouts had been

scheduled to start on Feb. 16, and MLB already has canceled the first week of exhibitions, which were to begin Friday.

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said on Feb. 10 that a minimum of four weeks of training are needed before starting the season. A deal by Monday would allow that plus a few days for players to report to camps in Arizona and Florida.

MLB's public statement was interpreted as a pressure tactic by the union, which was angered that payrolls decreased during the expired five-year deal and that an increased number of teams jettisoned higher-salaries veterans and went into rebuilding mode.

A day after the union made only small moves in response to management's incremental proposal of a day earlier, MLB offered players one change: Teams offered to increase the minimum salary from \$570,500 to \$640,000, up from their previous proposal of \$630,000. The minimum would increase by an additional \$10,000 each season during a five-year agreement. Clubs withdrew their proposal for a tiered minimum, which players opposed.

Players have asked for \$775,000 in 2022 and additional \$30,000 jumps each succeeding season. The union evaluated MLB's proposal as adding \$5 million annually to salaries.

There was no discussion Wednesday on the key issue of luxury tax thresholds and rates, but players voiced their concern over a lack of competition and the need for younger players to get higher salaries earlier in their big league careers.

The union proposed a \$115 million pool of money that would go to 115 pre-arbitration players annually, while the clubs offered \$20 million that would be distributed to 30.

Yankees pitchers Gerrit Cole and Zack Britton joined the talks, two of six members on hand from the union's executive subcommittee, which supervises the negotiations. They were joined by Scherzer, free agent pitcher Andrew Miller, Mets shortstop Francisco Lindor and Astros catcher Jason Castro.

After meeting at the start of the day, the sides caucused and then had a smaller group meeting that included Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem, Rockies CEO Dick Monfort, Scherzer and Miller.

IN BRIEF

Walker's Knicks tenure likely over

There were certainly a few highlights to Kemba Walker's first season with his hometown Knicks.

One of those came when the four-time All-Star dropped 29 points against the Celtics, his old team, then another 44 points when he faced the Wizards two games later.

But it's been a rocky road for Walker all season, as he fell out of the Knicks rotation earlier this season. Now, with 23 games still left in the team's disappointing season, the guard is done. The Knicks and Walker, 31. agreed to sideline the guard for the rest of the season, ESPN reported Wednesday.

Walker averaged 11.6 points, 3.0 rebounds and 3.5 assists per game. He only played in 37 of the Knicks' 59 games as coach Tom Thibodeau took him out of the rotation. Walker had an impressive three-game stretch in December that showed he still has some bounce.

But those pesky knee issues popped up again in January as his playing time again fluctuated.

It was supposed to be a storybook chapter to Walker's career as a Bronx native playing for the Knicks in Madison Square Garden. But reality was more disappointing as the knee issues that bogged him down in his final games with the Celtics were again problematic.

Walker, 31, signed a two-year contract with the Knicks in the offseason after he was bought out of his contract with the Thunder. The Celtics dealt him in the summer to the Thunder in a trade that saw Al Horford back in his second stint with the

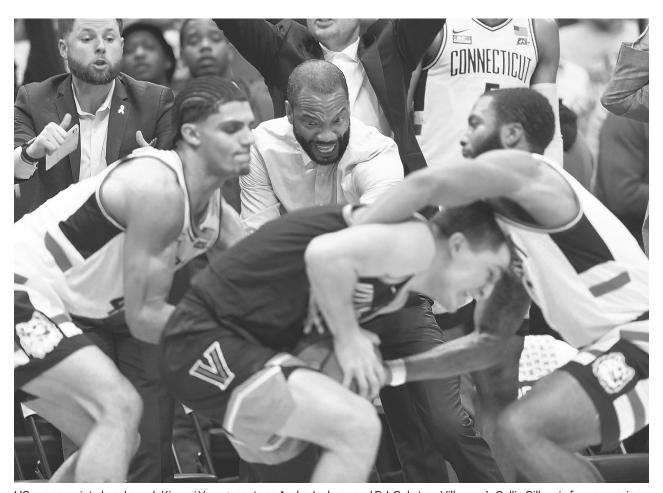
The goal now reportedly is for Walker to work out and prepare himself for next

season. The Knicks will also work to move Walker and his expiring contract during the offseason

■ The Trail Blazers announced that C Jusuf Nurkic will be sidelined for at least four weeks because of left foot plantar fasciitis. The condition has been bothering Nurkic since September. He will be re-evaluated after four weeks. Nuckic has started 56 games this season, averaging 15 points and 11.1 rebounds. He has 30 double-doubles.

Colleges: Marshall filed a lawsuit against Conference USA to expedite its exit from the league so it can join the Sun Belt this summer. Earlier this month, Marshall, Old Dominion and Southern Miss announced their plans to terminate their memberships in Conference USA on June 30 to become members of the Sun Belt. In mid-February, Conference USA released its 2022 football schedule, which included all three schools, and pledged to "exhaust all necessary legal actions" to ensure the outgoing members would participate this fall.

Soccer: João Félix scored in the seventh minute for host Atlético Madrid, but Anthony Elanga tallied an equalizer in the 80th minute for Manchester United as the teams played to a 1-1 draw in the first leg of a Champions League last-16 match. In other action, Benfica and Ajax played to a 2-2 draw in Lisbon, Portugal. The return legs are March 15. ... Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane both scored twice to lead host Liverpool in a 6-0 rout of Leeds. With its sixth straight Premier League victory, Liverpool pulled within three points of first-place and defending league champ Manchester City. Liverpool, which won the title in 2020, was 13 points back of City in mid-January.



UConn associate head coach Kimani Young reacts as Andre Jackson and R.J. Cole trap Villanova's Collin Gillespie for possession. UConn had the arrow, and Cole went on to make the game-winning shot. CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Amore

from Page 1

huge win for the program, and what a team. What an emerging team, formidable team that is as good as anyone in this league."

The XL Center was nearly filled by the 8 p.m. tip, and the crowd was very much into the nip-tuck game that was unfolding, Hurley smacked the scorer's table with 4:53 left in the first half, drawing a technical. When the arguing died down and Villanova's Collin Gillespie was getting ready to shoot the free throws, Hurley turned and motioned to the crowd to make noise. It triggered referee James Breeding to call another technical, ejecting Hurley.

This call may be debated for a week. Hurley was admonished by the Big East for criticizing officials after the game at Xavier on Feb. 11, and UConn issued a statement supporting the conference's sportsmanship guidelines. So maybe officials are watching Hurley more closely, and he's experienced enough to know that. However, this looked more like a case of an official trying to be the attraction, forgetting that no one paid their way in to watch them blow their whistles. Hurley lost his cool but so did the official and that's *not* cool either.

Obviously, it was surreal," Hurley said. "I was stunned. I'm very eager

to find out from the head of officials what the explanation was."

It could have cost UConn the game. Villanova got four free throws, made three, and got the possession, scoring a total of five points to take a 29-24 lead. But Hurley left the team in good hands with Kimani Young, and UConn quickly tied the game and led 33-32 at the half.

"Listen, we just stuck to our game plan," Young said. "I told them to keep believing in themselves, keep battling. There were in-game decisions that had to be made, but everybody in our program knew what was at stake and we were ready for it."

Both Hurley and Young spoke to the team at halftime. As Hurley was in detention, watching in the locker room with UConn director of athletics David Benedict, the Huskies were standing up to the very program that has crushed them for five years. The Huskies played with all the traits Hurley has tried to instill, the toughness, the grit, the will to make the big play. On a night its coach was ejected, the team looked more poised down the stretch in a big game than a UConn team has in a long

"I was happy we were able to pick him up," said R.J. Cole, who made the winning shot and clinching defensive play. "He was down, he needed uplift, and we were able to deliver that for him?

The Huskies looked sunk

when Villanova, ranked No. 8 and leading the Big East, edged ahead by four. After a missed free throw, Young called a timeout and drew up a play for Tyler Polley, who sank a 3-pointer with 21 seconds left.

As the crowd grew louder, the Huskies trapped and swarmed Gillespie and got the ball back. Cole had to take, and make, a tough shot at the rim, hitting it with 5.9 seconds left. At the other end, the officials called a change when Gillespie was stonewalled, and the ball and the game belonged to UConn.

Hurley was begging Benedict to allow him to get back on the floor, but the AD was firm, not wanting more trouble with the league. Hurley walked into the tunnel, and his team met him there.

On Jan. 20, 2018, the last time Villanova was in Hartford, the Wildcats silenced a capacity crowd and humiliated UConn, building a 70-31 lead before winning by 20. That was the first film Hurley dissected when he took over the program two months later.

They booed at the XL Center that day. This night, they stormed the court.

"My freshman year, the way they beat us here in front of a sold-out crowd to now, it's just a great feeling," Polley said. "It shows how far we've come as a program. We've still got a ways to go, we still have games to play, the tourna-

LATE TUESDAY UCONN 71, VILLANOVA 69 TOTALS — **21-46 15-19 28 9 15** Three-point goals: 12-27, 44.4(Samuels 3-6, Slater 3-8, Daniels 2-2, Gillespie 2-5, Moore

Slater 3-8, Daniels 2-2, Gillespie 2-5, Moore 2-6). FG pct.: 45.7. FT pct.: 78.9. Team rebounds: 2. Turnovers: 14(Gillespie 5, Samuels 2, Dixon 2, Daniels 2, Slater, Moore, Team). Blocks: 1 (Moore). Steals: 5(Daniels 2, Gillespie, Samuels,

UConn	M	FG	FT	RB	Α	PF	PT
Sanogo	33	8-14	4-5	6	3	4	20
Whaley	30	4-5	4-4	4	0	0	13
Cole	35	5-10	0-0	1	2	2	12
Martin	36	3-11	0-0	9	2	1	9
Jackson	28	1-4	1-2	4	8	3	3
Polley	20	3-7	0-0	0	0	0	9
Gaffney	5	1-2	0-0	0	0	1	3
Hawkins	13	1-3	0-0	2	0	1	2
TOTALS	- 2	26-56	9-11	27	15	12	71
Three-point	goals:	10-24,	41.7(P	olley	3-6	Ma	rtin
3-7, Cole 2-4	. Whal	ley 1-2	, Gaffn	ey 1-2	, Ja	cks	on

0-1, Hawkins 0-2). FG pct.: 46.4. FT pct.: 81.8. Team rebounds: 1. Turnovers: 8(Whaley 4, Cole 2, Martin, Jackson). Blocks: 4(Sanogo 2, Whaley Jackson, Polley).

32 37 - 69 33 38 - 71 Villanova Officials: Farrell, Groover, Breeding. Att.: 15,564 at XL Center, Hartford

ments, but this is a big-time win. I'm not going to lie."

Despite losses in five straight seasons, including the game at Villanova on Feb. 5, Hurley had urged his team not to take an underdog mentality coming in, to play like the favorites. "We knew what Villano-

va's been, but we also know the steps we've taken in Year 4 here," he said, "It's kind of weird to see UConn storming the court, but it's been [a long time]. Our fans deserve that."

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com

UCONN FOOTBALL

Team set to play Blue/ White spring scrimmage at Morrone Stadium

Staff report

The UConn football team is set to begin spring practice on March 22 with new head coach Jim Mora at the helm.

Mora has put emphasis on the quarterback position this offseason. Huskies freshman Tyler Phommachanh, recovering from a torn ACL, and redshirt junior Steven Krajewski, who took most of the snaps in 2021, will be back. They'll be joined by Penn State transfer Ta'Quan Roberson and Zion Turner, a highly decorated high school quarterback from St. Thomas Aquinas in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Cale Millen, the son of former NFL quarterback Hugh Millen, is also expected to sign as a transfer from Northern Arizona.

The offensive line has also been a point of emphasis in Mora's plan to improve the Huskies, who were 1-11 last season.

The 15 spring practice dates are March 22, 24, 26, 29, 31 and April 2, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20.

The spring season will culminate with the Blue/ White Game on April 21 at Morrone Stadium in Storrs. This marks the first time the spring scrimmage will be held on campus since 2003. Kickoff is set for 6:30 p.m. ET, and the event is open to the public.

Additional details surrounding the Blue/ White Game and spring practice will be made available in the coming days.

Information from The Courant's Dom Amore was used in this report.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL Michigan, without suspended Howard, beats Rutgers 71-62

Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. -Caleb Houstan scored 13 of his career-high 21 points in the second half when Michigan pulled away to beat Rutgers 71-62 Wednesday night without head coach Juwan Howard, who was serving the first of a five-game suspension.

Former longtime Saint Joseph's coach and current Michigan associate head coach Phil Martelli was filling in for Howard. Howard was suspended for the remainder of the regular season and fined \$40,000 by the Big Ten Conference after hitting a Wisconsin assistant coach in the head during the handshake line after a loss Sunday. In addition, Michigan players Terrance Williams II and Moussa Diabate were suspended for Wednesday's game as a result of the

Houstan, a freshman, made five of Michigan's seven 3-pointers, Hunter Dickinson added 16 points and 11 rebounds and Devante' Jones scored 14 points for the Wolverines (15-11, 9-7 Big Ten). Eli Brooks scored 11 points.

Ron Harper Jr. scored 19 points and Clifford Omoruyi 17 for the Scarlet Knights (16-11, 10-7), who lost their second straight after thrusting themselves into the NCAA Tournament picture with four straight victories over ranked opponents before losing to then-No. 5 Purdue on Sunday.

Michigan improved its postseason case in a game it led almost the entire way. The Wolverines never trailed after taking the lead four minutes in. They maintained the lead except when an Omoruyi dunk gave Rutgers a brief tie early in the second half.

An 11-0 run with five points from Kobe Bufkin and four by Brooks gave Michigan the first doubledigit lead of the game at 59-45 with just under nine minutes remaining. The lead stayed in double figures until another Omoruyi dunk for the game's final points.

Michigan held a singledigit lead over the final 16 minutes of a fast-moving first half behind 12 points from Dickinson and led 32-30. All but six of the 62 points — on a pair of 3-pointers by Houstan were scored inside the arc.

Rutgers beat Michigan 75-67 on Jan. 4 at home, the Scarlet Knights' first win over the Wolverines, who lead the series

UConn

from Page 1

to grind it out more. ... A lot of the stuff we've seen, I haven't seen at UConn in four years. We had to step out of our comfort zone."

On Friday, Evina Westbrook came off the bench to score 17 points, shooting 6-for-8 from the floor, with five rebounds to lead the way. The fifth-year senior seemed to find a new gear since Auriemma assigned her to provide a spark off the bench. "She's playing the best

basketball since she has been here," Auriemma said. "She has been the Evina I always thought she'd be."

Azzi Fudd scored 13, with 11 in the second half. Nelson-Ododa had 10 points and six rebounds, and Aaliyah Edwards had 10 and five, The Huskies were a little sluggish

on offense, but out rebounded Marquette 32-25 and outshot their opponent to 50.9 percent to 34.7 percent.

Now the seventh-ranked Huskies (20-5, 13-1 in the Big East, have tuneups at home against St. John's Friday and Providence on Sunday to close the regular season. Their streak of 169 consecutive conference wins was ended by Villanova Feb. 9, but that proved to be just a bump in the road.

UConn started Edwards, Nelson-Ododa, Fudd, Nika Muhl and Williams, leaving an impressive bench array including Westbrook. Caroline Ducharme and Dorka Juhasz. Muhl was called for two fouls over the first 95 seconds, and spent the rest of the half on the bench.

Westbrook and Nelson-Ododa were most productive in the early going. Marquette led 8-6 after Antwainette Walker's layup with 3:53 left in the first quarter, then the Huskies put together a 19-2 run to take control. Westrbook's 3-pointer, the Huskies' only made three of the half, provided the lead at 9-8, then halfway through the second period, Ducharme finished the run with a driving layup and the Huskies led 25-10.

Not everything was going according to plan, though UConn took a 31-14 lead into the half, Westbrook with nine points and Nelson-Ododa with eight. The Huskies were 1-for-7 on threes and had more turnovers (seven) than assists (six.) But the defense was stellar, Marquette shooting 6-for-23, turning it over 12 times.

The Golden Eagles stopped the momentum in the second half, holding UConn scoreless for 3:38 and scoring seven straight points to move within 10. **UCONN 69, MARQUETTE 38** 25 3-11 29 2-7 28 2-7 3-11 0-0 2-7 0-0 2-7 1-2 0-3 0-0 4-7 0-0 1-1 0-0 0-0 0-0 McLaughlin Marotta TOTALS - 17-49 3-4 25 9 16

Three-point goals: 1-6, 16.7(McLaughlin 1-4 King 0-2). FG pct.: 34.7. FT pct.: 75.0. Team rebounds: 3. Turnovers: 22(Okosun 5, King 4, Marotta 4, Van Kleunen 3, McLaughlin 2, Walker 2, Karlen, Team). Blocks: 3(King, Marotta, Middleton). Steals: 5(Walker 2, King, Okosun

Azzi Fudd, who got off only two shots in the first half. hit a three to end the scoring drought. A lay-in by Edwards and a three from Westbrook rebuilt the the Huskies' lead to 39-21, and from there they won going away, outscoring Marquette 20-4 to finish the third quar-

Fdwards 2-2 2-4 1-1 0-0 3-3 0-0 Nelson-Ododa 23 Williams 34 6 6 2 1 4 3 2 1 2 5 1 0 4 1 1 4 2 1 0 0 2 2 0 0 Muhl Ducharme 16 1-3 0-0 7 0-2 0-0 5 0-0 0-0 Juhasz **TOTALS** — 27-53 9-11 32 17 13 69 Three-point goals: 6-17, 35.3 (Fudd 2-3, Westbrook 2-3, Williams 2-6, DeBerry 0-1, Ducharme 0-2, Juhasz 0-2). FG pct.: 50.9. FT pct.: 81.8. Team rebounds: 2. Turnovers: 18(Ducharme 5, Fudd 2, Edwards 2, Gabriel 2, Nelson-Ododa, Williams,

Muhl, Westbrook, Juhasz, DeBerry, Team). Blocks: 5(Nelson-Ododa 3, Williams, Juhasz). Steals: 10(Edwards 3, Westbrook 3, Nelson-Ododa, Williams, Muhl, Ducharme). 8 6 11 13 - 38 Marquette 15 16 20 18 - 69 Officials: Spurlock-Welsh, Preato, Vaszily. Att.: 9,197at XL Center, Hartford.

UConn has won 35 regular-season conference championships, 26 in the original Big East, seven in the American Athletic Conference and two since joining the new Big East.

"Every thing that happened," Westbrook

said, "you couldn't make it up, from our bus breaking down [on the way to a game at Providence], to everything else."

Bueckers warms up: Though UConn has ruled out a Bueckers return before the end of the regular season, she was out with her team, dressed and going through all the drills, some with, some without the large brace on her left knee. The pregame warm-ups are part of her rehab program; she resumed her cheerleading role once the game started.

So her return is getting close, but not likely before the Big East Tournament.

Juhasz took an elbow to her chin late in the game and required stitches for a cut on her lip, but should be Okay to play by Friday.

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com

Did you know?

Without seat belt restraints, even an accident at a relatively low speed can result in serious injuries from being thrown around inside a vehicle or colliding with other passengers.

riscassi-davis.com

131 Oak Street · Hartford, Connecticut 860.522.1196 • 800.344.5297



RisCassi & Davis Protecting the rights of the injured for more than 60 years



NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Cavaliers promote Gansey to GM



The Cavaliers promoted assistant general manager Mike Gansey to GM on Wednesday, one of several front-office moves made by the improved team. Gansey has been with the Cavs since 2011. He will have an increased role in draft preparations while working with Koby Altman, who was recently

promoted from GM to president of basketball operations. The Cavs have had a dramatic turnaround after winning iust 22 games last season. They reached the All-Star break fourth in the Eastern Conference and are looking to make the playoffs for the first time since 2018. The 39-year-old Gansey is a Northeast Ohio native. He played collegiately at West Virginia. Gansey previously served as GM for the Cleveland Charge of the NBA's G League. Along with Gansey's promotion, the Cavs elevated Brandon Weems to assistant GM after working as their senior director of player personnel. Weems is a longtime friend and former high-school teammate of LeBron James. Also, the Cavs promoted Jason Hillman to VP of basketball operations and Jon Nichols to VP of basketball strategy.

Zverev kicked out of Mexican Open



Third-ranked Alexander Zverev was thrown out of the Mexican Open for violently smashing his racket on the umpire's chair moments after losing a doubles match. The incident took place after Zverev and Marcelo Melo lost to Lloyd Glasspool and Harri Heliovaara 6-2, 4-6, 10-6 on Tuesday night in

Acapulco. Zverev struck the umpire's chair three times, sat for a moment, then got back up and yelled at umpire Alessandro Germani that he "destroyed the whole (expletive) match" and struck the chair once more with his racket as the umpire climbed down. Minutes earlier, Zverev had received a code violation after yelling and swearing in protest of a shot that was ruled in, setting up match point. Glasspool then ended the match with an ace. "Due to unsportsmanlike conduct at the conclusion of his doubles match on Tuesday, Alexander Zverev has been withdrawn from the tournament in Acapulco," the ATP said on Twitter early Wednesday. The 24-year-old German was the defending champion in the singles. Zverev apologized in a statement posted on his Instagram account on Wednesday.

Johnson next US Ryder Cup captain



Two-time major champion Zach Johnson is taking over as Ryder Cup captain, leading an American side trying to end 30 years without a victory on European soil. The PGA has yet to make an announcement but it scheduled a news conference for Monday morning to announce the new captain. The deci-

sion isn't a surprise. Johnson, 45, has been an assistant captain each of the last two matches, and the U.S. team has moved toward captains with previous involvement. The 2023 matches are scheduled for Marco Simone in Italy. The Americans are coming off the country's biggest Ryder Cup rout, beating Europe 19-9 at Whistling Straits last September with Wisconsin native Steve Stricker as the captain. Stricker was part of the Ryder Cup committee — three PGA Tour players and three PGA of America executives — that picked the next captain. Europe has yet to announce its next captain. Johnson played in five Ryder Cups. He has 12 wins on the PGA Tour, including the Masters in 2007 and the British Open in 2015 at -Associated Press

The 2022 Beijing Olympics concluded Sunday. The Olympics won't return to Asia until 2030 or 2036, or even later. AP FILE

OLYMPICS

Games going elsewhere

Olympics say goodbye to Asia after star-crossed run

By Stephen Wade

Associated Press

BEIJING - The Olympics have said goodbye to Asia after a star-crossed run, and it's unclear when they'll be back after the continent hosted four of the last eight Games.

The earliest the Summer Games could return is 2036, and the favorite could be the world's most populous country – not China, as you might expect, but India.

India's population is expected to overtake China's 1.4 billion in the next decade, and it is lobbying for the western city of Ahmedabad to be the host city for 2036, with events elsewhere, including New Delhi, the capital.

"India is in a race for hosting 2036," Narinder Batra, president of the Indian Olympic Committee, told The Associ-

In a show of support, the IOC has scheduled the annual meeting of its full membership for next year in the western Indian metropolis of Mumbai. It's a signal the courting has begun.

Delivering the pitch: Indian IOC member Nita Ambani, who's married to Mukesh Ambani, the chairman of India's multinational conglomerate Reliance Industries. The family fortune has been estimated at \$100

As it did with China, the IOC can envision India as a new frontier that will yield deep-pocketed sponsors,

television rights deals and generous

government support.

Departing Asia means returning to familiar terrain: the Summer Games in Paris in 2024, the 2026 Winter Games in Milan-Cortina, and the 2028 Summer Games in Los Angeles. Brisbane is also lined up for the 2032 Summer Olympics, a return to Australia 32 years after Sydney.

The Asia focus started with the 2008 Beijing Olympics, a grand coming-out party that many hoped would change China. Instead, China used to Games to change how it was viewed.

The Asia run enriched the IOC with lucrative billion-dollar sponsorship deals with China's Alibaba and Japan's Toyota, put down roots in the world's most populous continent and featured a return to South Korea 30 years after the 1988 Seoul Olympics were credited

with helping to usher in democracy. Asia has also generated consistently bad public relations for the IOC. This includes a state-sponsored doping scandal from the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics that lingers and surfaced again with allegations in Beijing against Russian figure skater Kamila

There was IOC vote-buying linked to the award of the Tokyo Olympics, which forced the resignation of the head of Japan's Olympic Committee, Tsunekazu Takeda, and a diplomatic boycott of the just-finished Beijing Games centered on human rights abuses that also dogged Beijing in

Add in the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro. This was another nontraditional stop that caused problems. It saw the organizing committee face bankruptcy and Carlos Nuzman, the head of the committee, convicted of corruption, money laundering and tax evasion. The former IOC member is

The IOC I think is viewed as a villain globally at this time, and they have to do something to change their image," said Robert Baade, a sports economist at Lake Forest College outside Chicago. "I'm not sure that's going to happen at any time soon."

Baade is the co-author of "Going for Gold: The Economics of the Olympics," a study that looks at the costs and benefits of the Games.

"It's these little things, the five-star hotels, the elitism, the privilege that the IOC displays — and its eurocentrism," Baade added.

The IOC no longer runs a wideopen bidding process, instead selecting cities in which it has interest - and vice versa. It puts the selection in the hands of the IOC leadership rather than with IOC members. The 2036 host is unlikely to be picked until after the next IOC presidential election in

The other return to Asia could come with the 2030 Winter Olympics, where Sapporo, Japan – the 1972 Winter host is probably the favorite.

Also in the mix could be Vancouver, Salt Lake City and a Spanish bid, perhaps from Barcelona.

The Japanese news agency Kyodo, citing unidentified sources, has reported that Sapporo and the IOC are in talks and a decision could come before the end of the year.

The city has put the cost at \$2.4 billion to \$2.6 billion.

AP writer Ashok Sharma in New Delhi contributed to this report.

PGA Tour: Decide now on Saudi league

By Doug Ferguson | Associated Press

PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan says he has "zero complacency" when it comes to the threat of a Saudifunded rival league, and he has a clear message for any player still tempted to leave.

"I told the players we're moving on and anyone on the fence needs to make a decision," Monahan said Wednesday in a telephone interview.

He also emphasized anew that players who sign up for a Saudi golf league will lose

their PGA Tour membership and should not expect to get it back.

Monahan said the tour had "incredible momentum" coming off its West Coast swing. None of the top 12 players in the world expressed support for joining a Saudi league, a damaging blow to Greg Norman and his LIV Golf Investments. The endless chatter of a new league was louder than ever last week, centering on the possibility that Norman was on verge of



PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan wants players to make up their minds about whether or not to ioin a Saudi league. AP FILE

announcing a roster of 20 players. "All this talk about the league and about money has been distracting to our players, our partners and most importantly our fans," Monahan said. "We're focused on legacy, not leverage. You saw it last week with Joaquin Niemann winning, receiving the trophy from a legend (tournament host Tiger Woods) who inspired him to take up the game.

"Those moments can't be replicated." Monahan met with players Tuesday afternoon at the Honda Classic. While the meeting had been scheduled weeks in advance, it began just minutes after Phil Mickelson released a statement in which he apologized for "reckless" remarks about the Saudis and praised Norman's LIV

Golf Investments for sharing his goal of making golf better. Mickelson didn't mention the PGA Tour, which he referred to as a "dictatorship" in his explosive comments to Alan Shipnuck, whose biography on Mickelson is due in May. Mickelson also said he and three other top players paid attorneys to write the operating agreement for a new league in which players would have more control.

Monahan declined to comment when asked if Mickelson had been suspended or faces punishment, citing the tour's longstanding policy of not discussing discipline.

Mickelson said he needed time away without elaborating when or how long it would be. He hasn't played since the Saudi International three weeks ago. It was in Saudi Arabia where Mickelson first accused the PGA Tour of "obnoxious greed" in an interview with Golf Digest. He also said even the talk of a rival league was providing leverage to get changes he felt were needed on tour.

Most damaging to Mickelson were his vulgar description of the Saudis, and how he was willing to overlook their human rights atrocities if it allowed him a "once-ina-lifetime" chance to reshape the PGA Tour where he has made nearly \$120 million in career earnings and bonuses.

KPMG, a corporate partner with Mickelson since 2008, said Tuesday in an email there was mutual agreement on ending the endorsement contract immediately. Amstel Light said Wednesday it has ended its partnership with the six-time major champion.

Norman's proposed league took a beating last week when top players like Jon Rahm and Rory McIlroy repeated strong support for the PGA Tour, and then Dustin Johnson announced on Sunday he was "fully committed" to the tour. Johnson's statement was among the most influential because he was often connected to the new league without ever having indicated which way he was leaning.

Hours later, Bryson DeChambeau offered more tepid support by saying if the best players were sticking with the PGA Tour, that's where he would be playing.

Monahan said he thanked the many top players who showed their loyalty, though he didn't feel as if the threat was over. McIlroy referred to it as "dead in the water" because none of golf's top players were going.

"There is zero complacency here," Monahan said. "We will continue to talk to the players and continue to listen." According to those in the room for his meeting with the players, Monahan's overall theme was about money — not only how much prize money was projected to grow on the PGA Tour over the length of the broadcast contracts, but

how much it would take to cause a player to leave. "I think it's going to still keep going. I think there will still be talk. Everyone talks about money. They've got enough of it," Brooks Koepka said Wednesday. "They'll get their guys. Somebody will sell out and go to it."

how the Saudi league was being built only on money and

Still, the support from top players — Koepka was among the first to speak out — was a boost for the tour as it begins its Florida swing that includes another \$12 million purse at the Arnold Palmer Invitational next week, and Woods getting inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame during The Players Championship.

"I know where a lot of our athletes stand," Monahan said. "That validation was incredibly impactful and gave us a renewed sense of optimism."

THURSDAY

ക ക ക് Morning clouds giving way to partly sunny skies

in the afternoon. Much cooler. North winds at 5 to 10 mph.

LOW

Snow, sleet and freezing rain is likely. A change to rain is possible along the shoreline. Breezy.

FRIDAY

GD GD GD GD G

Sunshine, some fair weather clouds, breezy and very chilly. LOW

LOW

SATURDAY

Partly sunny, breezy and seasonable.

SUNDAY

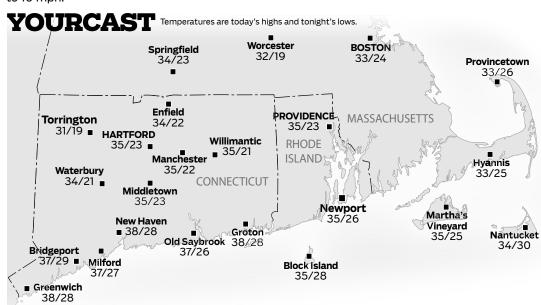
LOW

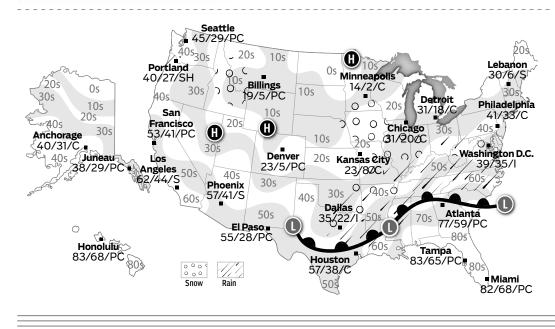
Sunny, breezy and

MONDAY

LOW 9°







OUTLOOK

Record high temperatures occurred in Connecticut on Wednesday and a high of 67 degrees in Bridgeport tied their warmest February day on record. The other 67 degree days in February occurred on the 21st in 2018, the 27th in 1997, and the 28th in 1976. Bradley Airport topped off 71 degrees and that was their fifth mildest February day. The record is 77 degrees set on the 21st in 2018. Thursday will be chilly with highs in the 30s, then a storm will cause snow Thursday night into Friday before turning to a wintry mix. Accumulations should range from 2 to 12 inches across the state.

-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches Total Normal Yesterday (by 7 p.m.) 0.75 0.12 Month to date 3.74 2.52 Total this year 5.80 Snowfall In Inches Yesterday (by 4 p.m.) 0.0

Total this year 21.6 39.0 Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

Air Quality Forecast For Today

Good 25	Moderate 3	12°
Air Quality Today	Ultraviolet Index Today	Wind Chill Today
6	Today	Tomorrow

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	6:34 a.m.	6:32 a.m.
Sunset	5:34 p.m.	5:35 p.m
Moonrise	1:38 a.m.	2:51 a.m
Moonset	10:53 a.m.	11:45 a.m.

Moon Phase)	
First Mar 10	Full Mar 18	Last Mar 25		
	First	First Full		

Stockholm

Svdnev

Toronto

Warsaw

Vancouver

40 30 SH

79 70 SH

48 32 PC

25 16 S

46 37 S

Weather page produced b

WESTERN

CONNECTICUT

Weather Center

UNIVERSITY

88 75 PC

61 50 R

45 39 SH

85 70 PC

55 34 SH

34 25 SN

82 66 PC

81 57 PC

54 39 SH

54 37 C

88 70 S

61 41 PC

39 28 S

88 75 SH

Kingston Lisbon

London

Madrid

Milan

Montreal

Moscow

Nassau

Paris

Prague

Rome

New Delh

Mexico City

55 31

77 63

65 51 PC

82 75 SH

41 31 SF

39 28 SH

61 54 PC

48 41 R

61 45 SH

81 66

43 37

Budapest

Cairo

Dubai

Dublin

Edinburgh

Hong Kong

Helsinki

Istanbul

Jerusalem

Cancun

Buenos Aires

55 34 S

50 37 R

54 41 C

48 23 S

68 54 SH

71 62 S

86 68

83 71

52 37

1.2			
1.0			
0.8			
0.6			
0.4			
0.2			
0.0	2/6	2/13	2/20
Tides	High	Low 1	Гетр.
N.L. State Pier	3:01 a.m.	10:00 a.m.	41°
	3:32 p.m.	10:01 p.m.	
Saybrook Jetty	4:12 a.m.	10:53 a.m.	40°
	4:43 p.m.	10:54 p.m.	
Connecticut River	6:55 a.m.	1:37 a.m.	
at Portland	7:26 p.m.		
Madison	4:26 a.m.	10:55 a.m.	39°
	5:07 p.m.	11:09 p.m.	
New Haven	4:46 a.m.	11:19 a.m.	38°
	5:27 p.m.	11:33 p.m.	
Stamford	4:50 a.m.	11:33 a.m.	39°

30-day Precipitation History In Inches

River Stage at Hartford: 7.49 feet at 5:30 p.m.

5:31 p.m. 11:47 p.m.

Last

Season

3938

Low

29.80 at 2 p.m.

24° at 7 p.m.

Boating	L.I. Souna W	L.I. Sound E	B. I. 500na
Weather	VCloudy	VCloudy	VCloudy
Wind	N, 5-10	N, 5-15	N, 5-15
Seas	1-2 ft.	1-3 ft.	2-3 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Wednesday	71 at 1:08 p.m	50 at 7:50 a.n
Normal for date	41	23
Record for date	71 in 2022	-3 in 1907
A year ago	42	31
Range this year	71	-2

Season

3772

High

30.13 at 7 p.m.

54° at 11 a.m.

Normal

4176

AROUND THE WORLD Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

Nashville

New York

Okla. City

Omaha

Orlando

Raleigh

St. Louis

Pittsburgh

31 13 C

26 20 PC

81 60 PC

41 29 C

29 22 C

35 23 SN

83 57 PC

New Orleans

NEW ENGL Bangor Burlington Caribou Concord Montpelier Mt. Wash. Portland Woods Hole	27 3 PC 20 7 S 18-10 PC 33 9 S 22 4 S 5 -6 S 33 16 PC 36 23 PC	Baltimore Bismarck Boise Buffalo Charleston Cincinnati Cleveland Indianapolis Jacksonville
NATION Albany	31 17 PC	Las Vegas Miami Beach

Albuquerque 44 24 PC Milwaukee

TUESDAY'S LATE HIGH

NEWINGTON (11-9): Nick Gagliardi 6-2-15, Gavin 2-0-4, Adam Alexander 1-0-2, Avery Mickens 1-0-3, Freddie Martinez 2-0-5. Totals 23-6-59.

WETHERSFIELD (3-17): Robert Rivera 7-6-22, Thomas Daly 3-0-8, Jack Freitas 3-0-6, Jomar

Feliciano 2-0-4, Andrew Knapp 2-4-8. Totals

Note: Gagliardi had 6steals, Guest had 8

NORTHWEST CATHOLIC 67, SOUTHINGTON 24

NORTHWEST CATHOLIC (19-1): Jehyvic Spencer 0-1-1, London Jemison 4-0-9, Tanner Ostop 2-0-5, Gianni Mirabello 4-0-11, Matty Curtis 7-1-16,

SOUTHINGTON (4-16): Rvan Hammarlund 3-0-7.

SIMSBURY 37, GLASTONBURY 25 GLASTONBURY (4-16): Dave Smith 1-0-3, Mickey

Shea 2-0-5. Adam Molusis 5-1-11, Troy Tennyson

2-0-4, Dan Catafi 1-0-2. Totals 11-1-25. SIMSBURY (14-6): Aidan Riordan 4-3-11, Keenan

Willison 1-0-2, Chris Kokines 3-3-9, Alex Pepper 4-0-11, Miles Moody 1-0-2, Nick Cordani 0-2-2. Totals 13-8-37.

TOLLAND (4-16): Nathan Bowes 5-3-15, Mitchell Enman 3-1-9, Dan Kennedy 0-0-0, Cullen

Rublewski 6-4-18, Joey Keane 0-0-0. Totals

E.O. SMITH (8-12): Dar Jankovic 3-0-6, Peter

19

ENFIELD (8-12): Kaden Birkett 2-2-6, Josiah

rebounds and Stearns had 11rebounds RHAM 61, ENFIELD 56

deau 7-3-19. Totals 22-9-56.

3-1-7. Totals 22-14-61.

Elumogo 4-3-11, Jackson Stearns 4-6-14, Leon

Lin 6-2-18, Noah Cordone 2-0-4. Totals 19-11-53.

Of note: Raynor had 10assists, Elumogo had 12

Whaley 7-2-16, Fritz-Carly Andre 1-0-2, Isaiah Plummer 1-2-5, Alex Herron 4-0-8, Tighe Thebo-

RHAM (17-3): Troy Miller 1-0-2, Jimmu Hulland 4-5-16, Spencer Pilkington 2-0-4, Patrick Kelly

3-6-12, Ryan McLaughlin 1-0-2, Alex Demosthe nous 1-0-2, Mike Poncini 7-2-16, Matt Fraleigh

WINDHAM TECH 91, CHENEY TECH 76

son 11-5-27. Totals 34-15-91.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

NCCC-Semifinal

Conference Tournaments CCC—Semifinal (Enfield HS) NEWINGTON 56, SOUTHINGTON 37

CT

CHENEY TECH (11-8): Kymani Thomas 0-6-6, Xavier McCall 5-1-14, Damnic Gittens 7-7-22,

Omar Rios 5-2-13, Justin Szrenja 1-0-2, Dan Copeland 4-1-9, Cal Henderson 0-2-2. Totals 25-21-76.

WINDHAM TECH (16-4): Daniel Toce 1-0-2. Alex

Johnson 6-1-16, Trey Lindsey 6-1-13, Brody Belanger 9-1-24, Danny Meikle 1-7-9, Joey John-

SOUTHINGTON (19-4): Gabby D'Angelo 2-2-7, Hailey Zembrzuski 2-0-4, Bethany Borges 2-1-5,

Lilly Cooper 3-0-9, Alison Mikosz 2-2-7, Hannah Blanchard 2-0-5. Totals 13-5-37. NEWINGTON (22-1): Lilly Ferguson 8-1-19, Marlie

Zocco 2-0-5, Selah Prignano 1-1-3, Bela Cucuta 5-7-20, Kendall Miller 4-0-9. Totals 20-9-56.

CANTON 45, SOMERS 40 CANTON (12-10): Sophia Mates 7-2-16, Gabriella

13 6 14 4 - 37

9 20 18 9 - 56

CCC-East E.O. SMITH 53, TOLLAND 42

Aidan Buck 3-0-6. Ian Beierle 2-0-4, John Flynn

2-0-5, Rick O'Neil 1-0-2. Totals 11-0-24.

Cavin Pollard 1-1-3, Hayden Abdullah 5-0-11, Badara Diakite 4-2-11. Totals 27-5-67.

rebounds and Hurley had 4assists.

12 11 20 16 - 59 10 8 20 10 - 48

18 8 26 15 - 67 9 4 4 7 - 24

7 3 4 11 - 25 13 9 4 11 - 37

4 7 12 - 42

9 14 17 13 - 53

13 13 9 21 - 56 15 17 17 12 - 61

17 16 20 23 - 76 21 20 27 23 - 91

SCHOOL RESULTS

NEWINGTON 59, WETHERSFIELD 48

BOYS BASKETBALL

CCC-North

Salt Lake City 33 21 PC 53 35 S Beirut 78 71 PC San Antonio 54 36 Berlin 28 16 C San Diego 62 46 S Bermuda 37 30 C KEY: S Sunny, C Cloudy, PC Partly Cloudy, R Rain, SH Showers, SN Snow, SF Snow Flurries, T T-storms

81 53 PC

40 31 C

85 62 PC

38 29 C

31 21 SN

52 45

29 14

SOMERS (16-6): Sydney Cassidy 1-3-6, Deidre Dalessio 5-2-14, Devon Dalessio 3-2-9, Eliana Wood 3-1-8, Erin Donohue 1-0-3. Totals 13-8-40. 14 9 8 14 - 45

DelSanto 1-0-2, Jenna Cuniowski 7-7-22, Ashley

Cebollero 0-0-0, Avery Brown 1-2-5. Totals

San Juan

WORLD

Athens

Beiiing

Bangkok

Barbados

Amsterdam

ECC-Finals (Mohegan Sun Arena)

NEW LONDON 66, BACON ACADEMY 55 NEW LONDON (20-3): Olivia Goode 3-3-11. Jamva Beddoe 0-0-0, Zanisha Croft 5-0-11, Italia Salis 2-0-6. Serenity Lancaster 6-1-13. Totals 28-4-66. BACON ACADEMY (20-3): Emily Ferrigno 0-1-1, Valerie Luizzi 9-5-25, Marissa Nudd 8-2-19, Cara Shea 2-0-4, Emma Mancuso 3-0-6. Totals 22-8-55.

16 22 14 14 - 66 12 9 14 20 - 55

Note: Nudd had 9rebounds and Luizzi had 4

THURSDAY'S HIGH **SCHOOL SCHEDULE**

BOYS BASKETBALL

CTC: Goodwin Tech at Platt Tech, 7p.m. Others: Prince Tech at Bassick, 7p.m.

Conference Tournaments
CCC—First Round: Manchester at Windsor, 5:30 p.m.: Berlin at Bloomfield, 5:30p.m.: Newington at Northwest Catholic, 5:30p.m.; Farmington at Middletown, 5:30p.m.; East Hartford at Conard, 5:30n.m.: Lewis Mills at Bristol Central, 6n.m.: East Catholic at Simsbury, 6:30p.m.; Platt at RHAM, 6:45p.m.

CRAL-First Round: Aerospace at Achievement First, 6p.m.; University at Classical, 7p.m.

SCC—First Round: Sheehan at Hand, 6:30p.m.; Hillhouse at Xavier, 6:30p.m.

Division 1: Bacon Academy at New London, 6

Division 2: Lyman Memorial/Plainfield at Wind-

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Conference Tournaments
CCC-Final (Enfield HS): East Hartford vs. Newington, 7p.m.

NCCC-Final: Canton at Granby, 6p.m. CRAL-Final: Aerospace at Parish Hill, 6p.m.

BOYS HOCKEY

Others: Housatonic co-op at Southington co-op,

BOYS SWIMMING

CCC: Southington at Plainville, 4p.m. SCC: Lyman Hall/Coginchaug at Sheehan, 6p.m. Others: Granby at Simsbury, 8p.m.

TUESDAY'S LATE COLLEGE RESULTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL **UCONN 71. VILLANOVA 69**

LEC Tourney—Quarterfinal EASTERN 76, UMASS-BOSTON 73 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

GNAC Tourney—First Round
ST. JOSEPH 65, JOHNSON & WALES 50

QUINNIPIAC 4, YALE 0

WEDNESDAY'S COLLEGE RESULTS

UMBC AT HARTFORD, LATE

LEC Tourney—Quarterfinal EASTERN 56, CASTLETON 37

MEN'S BASKETBALL

GNAC Tourney—Quarterfinal ST. JOSEPH'S (MAINE) AT ST. JOSEPH, LATE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL MAROUETTE AT UCONN. LATE

HARTFORD AT UMBC, LATE

GNAC Tourney-Quarterfinal ST. JOSEPH AT REGIS, LATE

BASEBALL SACRED HEART AT FORDHAM, LATE

Johannesburg 84 59 T

QUINNIPIAC AT SACRED HEART, LATE

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

CENTRAL AT IONA, LATE QUINNIPIAC AT SACRED HEART, LATE **BOSTON UNIVERSITY AT FAIRFIELD, LATE**

THURSDAY'S COLLEGE **SCHEDULE**

MEN'S BASKETBALL

St. Francis (Pa.) at Central, 7p.m. Siena at Quinnipiac, 7p.m. Mount St. Mary's at Sacred Heart, 7p.m. LEC Tourney-Semifinal Keene State at Eastern, 7:30p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Quinnipiac at Marist, 11a.m. Central at St. Francis (Pa.), 7p.m. Sacred Heart at Mount St. Mary's, 7p.m. Monmouth at Fairfield, 7p.m. LEC **Tourney**—Semifinal

UMass-Dartmouth at Eastern, 5:30p.m. **COLLEGE BASKETBALL**

Big East basketball standings

Team	CONF	CPCT	OVR	PCT
Providence	12-2	.857	22-3	.880
Villanova	14-4	.778	21-7	.750
UConn	11-5	.688	20-7	.741
Creighton	10-5	.667	18-8	.692
Marquette	9-7	.562	17-10	.630
Xavier	7-8	.467	17-9	.654
Seton Hall	7-8	.467	16-9	.640
St. John's	7-8	.467	15-11	.577
Butler	6-11	.353	13-15	.464
DePaul	3-13	.188	12-14	.462
Georgetown	0-15	.000	6-20	.231

TUESDAY'S LATE RESULT **UCONN 71, VILLANOVA 69**

WOMEN'S

Butler

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

CREIGHTON AT ST. JOHN'S, LATE XAVIER AT PROVIDENCE, LATE **BUTLER AT SETON HALL, LATE**

THURSDAY'S SCHEDULE

CONF CPCT OVR PCT Team .929 .789 19-5 20-7 .792 .741 UConn 13-1 Creighton .731 Villanova 13-4 .765 19-7 13-5 .722 21-8 DePaul .647 18-8 .556 15-11 .692 .577 Marquette 11-6 Seton Hall 10-8 .412 11-16 .333 11-16 .407 .407 St. John's 7-10 Xavier 4-13 .235 9-17 .346 Georgetown

0-16

.000

TUESDAY'S LATE RESULT

VILLANOVA 73, GEORGETOWN 61 WEDNESDAY'S RESULT

MARQUETTE AT UCONN, LATE FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE

St. John's at UConn, 7p.m. Villanova at Butler, 7p.m. Marquette at Providence, 7p.m. Georgetown at Xavier, 7p.m. Seton Hall at DePaul, 8p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Newington, Enfield are top seeds in the CIAC state tournament pairings

Heating Degree Days

For July 1 - Feb 23

É႙ၴ HIGHS

Atmosphere

Barometer

Dew point

30-day Temperature History

By Lori Riley Hartford Courant

Newington and Enfield are top seeds in the CIAC girls basketball tournament, which starts Monday and ends with five championship games March 19-20 at Mohegan Sun Arena. It's the first time the tournament will be held since 2020, when play began but was shut down due to COVID-19. There was no state tournament

last year. The tournament has been expanded to include five championship brackets this season. The brackets were released Wednesday, and here are some of the highlights.

Class LL

Enfield is the No. 1 seed in Class LL. The Eagles (20-2) lost only once during the regular season, 59-25 to E.O. Smith on Dec. 23, and then fell in the CCC tournament quarterfinals to upset-minded Windsor.

East Hartford, the second seed, lost to Enfield and Glastonbury during the regular season but has found its stride. The Hornets will play Newington — the top seed in Class L — in the CCC tournament championship on Thursday. East Hartford, led by Seton Hall-bound Shailyn Pinkney, is the only team to beat Newington in the regular season.

Middletown (18-3) is the No. 3 seed in Class LL. The Blue Dragons are having their best season since 2017, when they went 18-2 in the regular season and advanced to the Class LL quarterfinal.

Class L

Newington (22-1) is the defending CCC tournament champion and will be playing for another title Thursday before the Nor'easters open Class L tournament play March 4 against the winner of Bristol Central-Platt. The Nor'easters are led by Lilly Ferguson, who is headed to UMass, and freshman Bella Cucuta, who had 20 points in the CCC tournament semifinal against Southington.

Simsbury (19-3) is the second seed. The Trojans' only two regu-

lar-season losses came to Middletown and Southington, the eighth seed in Class LL. Simsbury lost to East Hartford in the CCC tournament quarterfinal 40-32. The Trojans will play the winner of Wethersfield-New Milford on March 4. Simsbury is in the same bracket as No. 3 seeded Notre Dame-Fairfield, one of the top teams in the state.

Class MM

Daniel Hand is the third seed behind Sacred Heart Academy and St. Joseph. Hand and Sacred Heart Academy were set to face off in the SCC tournament final on Wednesday. Hand is the only team to beat Sacred Heart Academy this season, 39-36, on Jan. 10 but Sacred Heart Academy won the second meeting 50-36 on Feb. 5. Hand last won a state title in Class L in 2017.

St. Paul Catholic, the fifth seed, lost to Seymour 55-52 in the NVL semifinals on Tuesday.

Class M

Bacon Academy (20-3) is the second seed in Class M behind undefeated Holy Cross, who will play in the finals of the NVL tournament against Seymour on Thursday. Bacon lost to New London in the ECC tournament championship Tuesday, 66-55. The Bobcats' only regular-season losses came to RHAM and E.O. Smith.

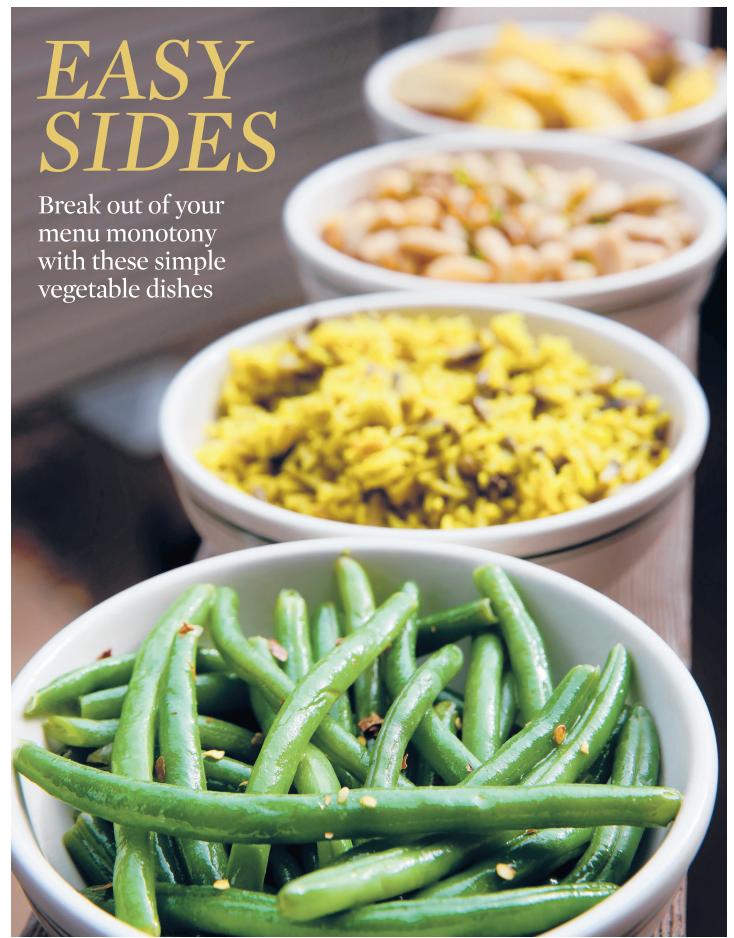
Cromwell, which is always dangerous in tournament play, is the seventh seed and Shoreline foe East Hampton is the third seed. The two could potentially face each other in the semifinal. Cromwell lost to Valley Regional in the Shoreline tournament semifinal on Tuesday.

Class S

Windham Tech is the second seed, Coventry is third and Somers is fourth in Class S. The wild card to watch is Canton, which is the 18th seed with a regular-season record of 10-10. Canton has come on strong late in the season and beat both Coventry and Somers en route to the NCCC championship game, where the team will face Granby on Thursday night.

FLAVOR

Living =



Pondering dinner on a busy weeknight? Try one of these easy vegetable side dishes, lined up from front to back: green beans with mustard sauce, mushroom rice with turmeric, three bean salad and roasted parsnips. HILLARY LEVIN/ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

By Daniel Neman St. Louis Post-Dispatch

t's a weeknight. You already know what you're making for the main course — what about a side dish? You could steam some green beans, again. You could steam some asparagus, again. You could bake a potato, again.

But you have been there and you have definitely done that. You want a vegetable side dish that does justice to your entrée. But it's a weeknight,

so you want it to be simple. Simple but satisfying. After perusing perhaps 200 vegetable recipes, I can definitely state that, according to them, there is one consistent, no-fail method to sprucing up your vegetables: add cream. I don't care what the vegeta-

cream is going to make it taste better. If you have an exceptional metabolism or are a boxer trying to step up a class in

ble is, dousing it in a gallon or two of heavy

weight, I recommend it. Otherwise, you might be happier trying these other four vegetable dishes. Each one is quick, simple and unfussy.

Mushroom rice with turmeric, for instance, is a vast improvement on ordinary rice. The rice is cooked with mushrooms, onion and garlic, and flavored (and colored) with turmeric. Instead of water. it is cooked with chicken broth, which is a surefire way to make your rice more flavorful, and it is mostly cooked in the oven instead of on the stove top.

Next up is green beans with mustard sauce. Do not be daunted by the thought of a mustard sauce. That term is far too fancy for what this sauce is. It's just a mixture of olive oil, lemon juice and a bit of Dijon mustard. But that mixture, which is just the simplest of vinaigrettes, does magical things to a plate of hot green beans.

A basic vinaigrette also provides the necessary balance to an Italian favorite, three bean salad.

The three beans in question are cannellini beans (or any white beans), garbanzo beans and lentils.

Beans, of course, are noted for their earthiness, so they need something to enliven them. That's where the vinaigrette comes in. The mixture here of olive oil, white wine vinegar and lemon juice perks up the flavors and brings the dish to life.

My last weeknight vegetable side dish is the easiest of all. And to many Americans, it is the least familiar.

Parsnips are a forgotten vegetable in this country, despite being quite delicious. A root vegetable, their taste is probably closer to carrots than anything else, but the flavor is actually unique. They are earthy but a little sweet. And if you roast them, they become sweeter still.

To roast parsnips, all you have to do is peel them and cut them into pieces. Toss the pieces in olive oil, salt and pepper, and cook them in the oven.

What could be simpler?

Mushroom rice with turmeric

Makes: 4 to 6 servings 34 pound mushrooms 11/2 tablespoons butter 1/2 cup finely chopped onion 1 clove garlic, finely minced $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground turmeric 1 cup uncooked rice 1 bay leaf 11/4 cups chicken broth

Salt and pepper

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. **2. Remove** the stems from the mushrooms. Cut the mushroom caps into ¼-inch cubes. There should be about 2 cups.

3. Heat butter in ovenproof saucepan with tight-fitting lid and add onion and garlic. Cook about 2 minutes and add mushroom. Cook about 5 minutes, frequently stirring. Sprinkle with turmeric and add the rice and bay leaf. Stir until the rice is coated and add the chicken broth, and salt and pepper to taste. Cover and bring to a boil on top of the stove. 4. Once boiling, move to oven and bake for exactly 17 minutes. Remove the cover and discard the bay leaf. Fluff rice with a fork. Adapted from "Craig Claiborne's The New York Times Cook Book" by Craig Claiborne and Pierre Franey

Green beans with mustard sauce

Makes: 6 servings 1 pound green beans 1/2 tablespoon Dijon mustard Juice of 1/2 lemon 2 tablespoons olive oil Salt and pepper

1. Trim ends of the beans but leave beans whole. Let stand in cold water until ready to use. Steam in a vegetable steamer or boil until crisp-tender, about 4 minutes.

2. As the beans cook, whisk together mustard, lemon juice and olive oil until thoroughly combined. Stir in salt and pepper to taste. Drain the beans when cooked. Add the mustard sauce to the beans and toss to coat well. Serve piping hot.

 Recipe from "Craig Claiborne's The New York Times Cook Book" by Craig Claiborne and Pierre Franey

Three bean salad

Makes: 6 servings

1 (15.5-ounce) can cannellini beans, drained and rinsed

1/2 (15-ounce) can lentils, drained and rinsed, ½ (15.5-ounce) can garbanzo beans

(chick peas), drained and rinsed 1/2 cup olive oil 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar

1 tablespoon lemon juice 1 bunch fresh chives, chopped

Note: Canned lentils are available at specialty stores, health food stores and international markets. If you can't find them, you can cook a small amount of dried lentils yourself, or substitute ½ (15-ounce) can of black beans.

Place the cannellini beans, lentils and garbanzo beans in a large bowl and drizzle with the olive oil. Combine the vinegar and lemon juice, season with salt and pepper, and add to the salad. Sprinkle with the chives and toss lightly. Serve immediately.

— Recipe from "The Silver Spoon"

Roasted parsnips

Makes: 4 servings

4 large parsnips, peeled, quartered lengthwise, then quartered crosswise 2 tablespoons olive oil

Salt and pepper **Preheat** oven to 425 degrees. Place parsnips on a baking dish or sheet. Drizzle with oil and toss to coat. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Roast parsnips uncovered until tender, about 35 minutes.

— Recipe from "Bon Appetit Fast Easy Fresh Cookbook" by Barbara Fairchild

4-ingredient pizza pockets serve up nostalgia

By Kelli Foster TheKitchn.com

All it took was a single bite of these cheesy pizza pockets to feel a flood of nostalgia.

If Hot Pockets were as much of a staple in your childhood as they were in mine, this four-ingredient recipe will be right up your alley.

These days, I skip the frozen store-bought box for a simple version with a few basic ingredients I almost always have on

It starts with a tube of flakv crescent roll dough, and bakes up with just enough sauce and lots of gooey, melted mozzarella.

We tested pizza pockets using a variety of doughs — including regular basic pizza dough, pizza dough in a tube, biscuit dough and crescent roll dough - and ultimately found that a tube of crescent roll dough is the way to go. It is by far the easiest dough to work with and seal, and makes for pizza pockets with the most irresistible buttery, flaky bite.

Stuffings can be as simple as a little bit of pizza sauce and mozzarella cheese. We like a few slices of pepperoni, too.

But that's far from the only option. Pizza pockets are a great opportunity to use up leftover meat, bits of veggies, and herbs hanging out in the fridge.

Just be sure not to overstuff the pockets — it can cause them to split open or leak during baking.

Turn to Pockets, Page 2



Staying in the know is easy.

Each weekday, you'll get the latest stories curated by our editors on your smart speaker or streaming service. Available on Amazon Echo, Apple Music, Google Home, Spotify and more.

Start now at PlayOurNews.com

Chicago Tribune

THE MORNING CALL

DAILY®NEWS

Hartford Courant

THE BALTIMORE SUN

Orlando Sentinel

Daily Press

The Virginian-Pilot

SunSentinel

Tribune Publishing Company

Scottish soup is its own kind of medicine

By Melissa Clark
The New York Times

A rare upside to living in a pandemic has been that, thanks to all the mask-wearing and distancing, I've managed to avoid my usual onslaught of winter colds. This has radically altered my chicken soup habits.

Usually, I would brew a pot of Jewish penicillin at the first sign of a scratchy throat. Full of garlic, celery, carrots and noodles simmered until so soft and slippery that chewing is hardly required; it's pure childhood comfort for me. It has seen my family through countless sniffles and bouts of bronchitis. Whenever I feel rotten, no other soup will do.

But without the bodily need for that exact brand of brothy medicine, I have been branching out. And one of my favorite new-to-me chicken soup variations is Scottish cocka-leekie.

A recipe dating to at least the 16th century, it's considered the national soup of Scotland, ladled up for St. Andrew's Day, Hogmanay and Burns Night.

The most minimalist recipes call for a rich chicken broth thickly strewn with slices of leek and chunks of the stewed bird, without so much as a parsley sprig or carrot slice decorating the bowl. More elaborate incarnations include beef broth or meat, rice or oatmeal, and — a typically medieval addition

— prunes or raisins.

Writing in the early
19th century, under the
pen name Margaret Dods,
Christian Isobel Johnstone has a cock-a-leekie
recipe in "The Cook and
Housewife's Manual"
that includes capon, beef
shin, optional oatmeal and
plenty of leeks, "boiled
down into the soup till it
becomes a green lubricious
compound."

But she skips the dried



Rich with chicken, leeks and prunes, this cock-a-leekie soup is Jewish penicillin of a different order. DAVID MALOSH/THE NEW YORK TIMES

fruit, calling it obsolete.
In my version, I have kept the diced prunes, which add a lovely sweetness, but nixed the beef, which seems like overkill when you have already got a chicken in the pot.

And in lieu of rice or oatmeal, I opted for the barley suggested by Felicity Cloake in her recipe in The Guardian, which she prefers for its chewy texture and nutty flavor.

Breaking from tradition, however, I also stirred in garlic, celery and carrots. It nudged the broth ever so slightly closer to my beloved Jewish penicillin, but without obscuring the leeks, chicken and prunes. Warming, hearty and very satisfying, it is sure to cure whatever ails you, be it of body, or of mind.

Cock-a-leekie soup (Scottish chicken and leek soup)

Makes: 4 to 6 servings Total time: 2 ½ hours 3 ½ pounds bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs and drumsticks 3 teaspoons kosher salt (Diamond

Crystal), plus more as needed ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, plus more as needed 4 large leeks, cleaned, separate greens and whites

3 medium carrots, peeled (reserve peels), cut into ¼-inch-thick coins 2 celery stalks, thinly sliced (reserve any leaves)

1 head garlic, halved crosswise 1 bunch parsley, stems and leaves separated

3 to 5 fresh thyme sprigs 1 fresh or dried bay leaf

1 star anise or clove 1 teaspoon whole black peppercorns 2 tablespoons unsalted butter ½ cup pearl barley ½ cup chopped pitted prunes

1. Season chicken with 2 teaspoons salt and ½ teaspoon black pepper. Set chicken aside while prepping the other ingredients.

2. Put leek greens, carrot peels, celery leaves, garlic, parsley stems, thyme, bay leaf and star anise at bottom of large Dutch oven or soup pot. Place chicken on top of vegetables. Add remaining 1 teaspoon salt and peppercorns, and pour in 8 cups cold water, or enough to just submerge the chicken.

3. Bring to a boil over high heat, then reduce heat to a simmer and partly cover the pot. Cook until chicken is

55 minutes.

4. While the chicken cooks, slice three of the leek whites into ½-inch coins. Thinly slice the remaining leek white; set thinly and thickly sliced leeks saids consertely.

cooked through and very tender, 45 to

aside separately.

5. When the chicken is tender, using tongs, transfer to a large bowl or plate to cool. Strain the broth into a large bowl, discarding vegetables and herbs.

6. Wipe out the Dutch oven and return it to medium-high heat. Add butter, letting it melt. Add the thick leek coins (save the thinly sliced leek for garnish), a pinch of salt and pepper, and sauté until tender and golden brown, about 5 minutes. Transfer leek whites to a bowl (they can go on top of the chicken if there's room).

7. Pour broth back into pot. Bring broth to a brisk simmer, and stir in barley, carrots and celery. Let broth simmer uncovered until the liquid is reduced by a third, and the barley and vegetables are tender. 40 to 50 minutes.

8. While the broth is simmering, use a fork or your fingers to shred chicken into bite-size pieces, discarding skin and bones.

9. Once the barley and vegetables are tender, stir in shredded chicken, sautéed leek whites and the prunes, and simmer for another 5 minutes to allow the prunes to soften (some might disintegrate). Taste and add salt, if needed. To serve, garnish with thinly sliced leek whites and parsley leaves.



Crescent roll dough makes this simple pizza pocket recipe irresistible. **KELLI FOSTER/ THEKITCHN.COM**

Pockets

from Page 1

Pizza pockets

Makes: 4 pizza pockets 1 (8-ounce) tube refrigerated crescent rolls, such as Pillsbury

¼ cup pizza sauce, plus more for serving, if desired 1 cup shredded low-moisture mozzarella cheese (about 4

8 pepperoni slices (about 1/2

1. Arrange a rack in the

ounce), optional

middle of the oven and heat to 400 degrees. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper.

2. Unroll tube crescent roll dough on a work surface and separate into 4 rectangles (2 triangles each). Use your fingers to press on the seams in each rectangle to seal. Transfer to the prepared baking sheet.

3. Spread 1 tablespoon pizza sauce over half of each rectangle, leaving at least a ½-inch border around the edge. Top the sauce on each rectangle with 2 tablespoons cheese, followed by 2 slices pepperoni (if using), then another 2 tablespoons

4. Brush a thin layer of water around the border of each rectangle. Fold the dough over the filling and tightly seal the edges with a fork. Pierce the top of the pocket several times with a fork.

5. Bake until the tops are

5. Bake until the tops are lightly browned and the edges are crisp, 13 to 15 minutes. Let cool 5 minutes before serving.

6. Serve with additional pizza

sauce for dipping, if desired.







I asked what kind of family Amina wanted. She said, 'A family like yours.' That's when I knew I had to adopt her.

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina



LEARN ABOUT ADOPTING A TEEN YOU CAN'T IMAGINE THE REWARD

ADOPTUSKIDS.ORG

Natural wines you need to try This type of wine has been dismissed as a fad. But good bottles are out there.

By Eric Asimov The New York Times

As polarizing as natural wine has been, as heated and contentious as the arguments have gotten over its name and its reasons for being, its audience continues to expand, as do the number of producers.

Recently, I went shopping online for natural wines and found some that are a pleasure to recom-

Among natural wine's growing audience, some have surely been attracted because they think it's fashionable. Others are curious about wines made outside the norm, wines that combine a respect for nature with traditional methods of production and that both taste and feel really good.

Regardless of the initial allure, for many the appeal has lasted. Most striking is how popular natural wine seems to be among younger people, the demographic that the mainstream wine industry has the most diffi-

culty reaching.
But although the number of producers has grown, the production of natural wine is necessarily small and labor intensive. The ethos of the genre is to farm organically; to ferment the grapes while adding nothing except perhaps a little sulfur dioxide, an antioxidant and stabilizer that has long been used in wine; and to remove nothing. It is a hands-on process that cannot be automated or mechanized for efficiency's

In mass-market winemaking, wine must be protected against possible spoilage during every step of the production process. The cultured yeast, the enzymes and the overuse of sulfur dioxide are all compromises aimed at protecting the investment.

By contrast, natural winemaking is risky. It requires meticulous care



TONY CENICOLA/THE NEW YORK TIMES

in both the vineyard and the cellar as overly casual viticulture or winemaking can doom a batch of wine. To look at it another way, making natural wine requires great skill because mistakes can't be undone with additions or technology.

It's an arduous task, but the results can be thrilling. This is not to say that people should drink only natural wine. An entire spectrum of methods and intentions exists between

the poles of natural and industrial, and consumers have their reasons for selecting what they like, whether preference, convenience or budget. I'm drawn to natural

wines because I love the unmediated flavors and expressions that come from grape to glass. I love the clear sense of place I often find and being able to sense the personalities of the producers in the glass. I'm moved by the respect for culture and tradition inherent in natural wine.

Because it is so laborious and personal to produce, natural wine is hard to scale up. It is necessarily

made in small quantities, so these wines may only be available in certain parts of the country.

One characteristic of natural wine culture is to question authority, including that of wine critics. So, even if you do find these bottles, feel free to experiment, to try other others.

Here are my recommendations, from lowest to highest price.

Roberto Henríquez Secano Interior Itata Rivera del Notro Blanco 2020, 12% alcohol, \$23: Roberto Henríquez Ascencio made wine in Canada, South Africa and the Loire Valley before settling in the Bío Bío region of Chile. He works with very old vines that have been farmed organically or biodynamically. This fresh orange wine is made of roughly equal parts sémillon, muscat of Alexandria and corinto, better known as Pedro Ximénez. It's intensely floral, lightly textured and altogether delicious.

Absentee Winery California Red Wine 2019, 14.5%, \$26:

The minimalist label on this bottle tells you almost everything you need to know. The wine? It's red. The ingredients? Grapes. That's it. The proprietor, Avram Deixler, worked all over the world before setting up shop in Point Reves Station in northern Marin County, where he grew up. This bottle, as I later learned, is made with carignan, syrah, zinfandel, petite sirah and abouriou, all grown organically in Mendocino County. The wine is fresh and alive, mildly tannic, direct and to the point. It's potent, but wears its power lightly. Abouriou, by the way, is a grape from southwestern France that used to be popular in California, where it was known as "early burgundy" for its tendency to ripen quickly.

Ca'de Noci Emilia Rosso Bio Sottobosco 2020, 10%, **\$27:** When I drank this earthy, savory, sparkling red wine from Emilia-Romagna I imagined I had gotten it directly from a farmhouse there. It's not rustic, it's simply wonderful — bone-dry, moderately

tannic, fruity and stony, unaffected by commercial polish or marketing sensibilities. Not surprising, given Ca' de Noci's excellent track record of making superb wines without sulfur dioxide, this wine was perfectly stable. Drink it with pizza, Italian sausages or just for fun.

MicroBio Correcaminos Castilla y Léon 2020, 13%, **\$29:** Ismael Gozalo is the founder and proprietor of MicroBio. He gets grapes from a variety of sources, but his home territory is the village of Nieva in Castilla y Léon, northwest of Madrid. This particular wine, Correcaminos, was made of old vines of verdejo, farmed organically, aged in steel vats and bottled without sulfur dioxide. It's slightly cloudy, fresh and alive, with earthy, refreshing flavors of fruits, flowers and herbs.

Wild Arc Farm New York State Blackbird 2020, 10.5%, \$30: Wild Arc Farm in the Hudson Valley got its start in 2016 and already is in the vanguard of young, imaginative producers working with hybrid

grapes. It is best known for its revival of piquette, a lowly beverage given by preindustrial landowners to their agricultural workers, which historically was made by refermenting grape pomace with water. Wild Arc turned it into a delicious, sparkling, low-alcohol beverage that has been widely embraced. Blackbird is not piquette. Rather, it's a blend of riesling and noiret, a red hybrid, which are fermented together. The result is a thirst quenching, deliciously refreshing, spicy wine that goes down

Milan Nestarec Czech Republic OKR 2020, 12.5%, **\$30,1 liter:** Milan Nestarec makes natural wines using grapes from his family vineyards in the Moravia region of the Czech Republic, which is closer to Vienna than to Prague. Over the last decade, his wines have gotten better and better. This easy-drinking white blend of chardonnay, grüner veltliner. sauvignon blanc and savagnin is macerated with the skins briefly for a touch of texture and a hint of tannins. With its lively acidity, OKR is like a bolt of energy, dry and thoroughly refreshing.

2Naturkinder Black Betty Landwein 2019, 11.5%, \$30: Michael Völker and Melanie Drese, the proprietors of 2Naturkinder, make luminous wines from sometimes unlikely combinations of grapes. This one is made mostly of domina, a cross between blauer portugieser, a once popular German grape, with pinot meunier and a little bit of pinot noir. It's pale garnet, and though domina has the reputation of making tannic wines, this is delicate, almost fragile in its purity and loveliness. The wine is named Betty after the first lamb born in their domina vineyard.



ASHLEY MOORE/AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

Caramel popcorn is perfect for a movie night at home

America's Test Kitchen

Did you know that popcorn comes in different shapes? There are two main kinds: butterfly (also called snowflake) and mushroom. Most of the popcorn you get at the movies or buy as kernels in the supermarket is the butterfly shape, which pops up light and fluffy with lots of "wings" sticking out.

Caramel popcorn, however, is often made with mushroom popcorn, which has a rounder shape (like a mushroom with a cap) and a more sturdy texture. Both popcorn shapes work for this recipe, but if you find mushroom popcorn in a specialty store or online, give it a try in caramel

Caramel popcorn

Makes: 7 1/2 cups 7 cups popped plain popcorn 5 tablespoons unsalted butter ¾ cup packed light brown sugar 1/4 cup dark corn syrup 1/4 teaspoon salt 34 teaspoon vanilla extract

¼ teaspoon baking soda ½ cup salted peanuts (optional)

1. Adjust oven rack to the middle position and heat oven to 250 degrees. Spray inside bottom and sides of a 13-by-9-inch metal baking pan with vegetable oil spray. Place popcorn in baking pan.

2. In a large saucepan, melt butter over medium-high heat. Add brown sugar, corn syrup and salt. Bring mixture to boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer, stirring occasionally, until mixture thickens slightly. about 3 minutes. Remove from heat.

3. Carefully add vanilla and baking soda (mixture will bubble and foam). Add peanuts (if using) and stir to combine.

4. Carefully scrape caramel mixture onto popcorn in baking pan. Use a rubber spatula to gently stir until popcorn is evenly coated. Spread popcorn into an even layer. 5. Bake for 20 minutes. Remove from oven

and transfer to a cooling rack. Use a rubber spatula to carefully stir popcorn, scraping up caramel from the bottom of the pan. Spread popcorn back into an even layer.

6. Return the baking pan to the oven and bake until popcorn is a deep golden brown. about 40 minutes, repeating stirring halfway through baking.

7. Remove baking pan from oven and transfer to a cooling rack. Carefully stir popcorn one last time. Let caramel popcorn cool completely in the pan, about 30 minutes. Break popcorn apart with your hands and serve.



Get more out of your subscription by setting up your digital account

It's easy to start your online access! Visit: go-activate.com

TRIBUNE

Family Owned and Run Since 1932 Celebrating 90 Years in Business & 7 Years in Wethersfield. D&D Market is just minutes f Rocky Hill, Cromwell, Glastor Come Check	LARGEST Italian Specialty Stores in CT From Hartford, Newington, Inbury and West Hartford.
Butcher Shop	

D&D Market's **Meatball Mix** (Ground Beef, Veal & Pork) - 5 lb. lots \$4.99/lb. Fresh Ground Sirloin - 5 lb. lots \$4.99/lb. Fresh Ground Chuck - 5 lb lots \$3.99/lb Seasoned Beef Tips \$9.99/lb. Bistro Steaks \$11.99/lb. PRIME Boneless Ribeye Steaks \$23.99/lb. **Boneless Pork Butt** \$3.99/lb. D&D Market's Own Real Porchetta \$4.99/lb. Martin Rosol's Kielbasas \$5.99/lb. Bell & Evans Bone-In Chicken Breasts \$4.99/lb.

Grocery Sclafani Homestyle Spaghetti Sauce (quart) \$2.99 Sclafani Imported Pasta (1 lb., regular cuts) \$1.49 Sclafani Amaretti or Lady Gingers (7 oz.) \$1.99 Sclafani Imported Extra Virgin Olive Oil (76 oz.) \$12.99 Sclafani Martini Olives (12 oz.) \$4.99

Produce Grape Tomatoes (pint) \$1.59 ea Romaine **Hearts** \$3.99 ea. Fresh Mushrooms (12 oz. pkg.) \$2.49 ea. Fresh Spinach (cello pkg.) \$3.99 ea. Jumbo Cantaloupes \$2.99 ea.

Prepared Foods Chicken Cacciatore \$7.99/lb.

Roasted Potatoes with Pancetta & Onions \$5.99/lb. \$6.99/lb. D&D Market's Store Made Putanesca Sauce (quart) \$7.99 ea. Our Store Made All Purpose Dough (1 lb.) \$1.99 ea.

Deli Krakus Imported Ham \$6.99/lb Finlandia Swiss Cheese \$6.99/lb. Carando Hard Salami \$6.99/lb. Land O'Lakes Jalapeno American Cheese \$5.99/lb.

Sandwich of the Week: **\$5.99** ea. Salami, Cheese, Lettuce & Tomato on a Hard Roll

* Not Responsible for Typographical Errors

Week of February 24 – March 2, 2022 675 Wolcott Hill Rd. • Wethersfield • (860) 785-8998



Hotteok filled with sugar, nuts and cinnamon. Crisp and chewy on the outside, gooey on the inside, the popular street food feels nostalgic for some Korean Americans, novel to others. **JENNY HUANG/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

'A Korean soul food'

The warm, sticky-sweet resurgence of hotteok, a type of pancake

By Priya Krishna The New York Times

he most challenging part of eating hotteok is the waiting, chef Judy Joo said. It takes a few minutes for the hot sugar encased in the crisp, chewy pancakes to go from molten, burn-your-mouthoff goo to warm, sticky goodness.

As a child, she visited stalls in Seoul that sold the Korean treat during the winter. "It was torture, standing there in the cold" with the joyful scent of sugar and cinnamon filling the air, she said.

These days, Joo, 47, a chef and cookbook author, makes her own hotteok at home in New York. She combines bread flour with sweet rice flour, and stuffs each pancake with a filling of muscovado, peanuts, cinnamon and salt, then fries the plump rounds until they're a brilliant golden brown

golden brown. Hotteok (pronounced somewhere between HO-tuck and HO-duck) comes in both sweet and savory versions, from mozzarella to matcha, though the cinnamon-andsugar filling is among the most popular nowadays. At Jinjuu, the Korean restaurant in London that Joo ran until 2019, one of her top-selling dishes was a Snickers-inspired hotteok, with a filling of salted caramel, chocolate ganache,

peanut butter and praline. Joo isn't the only Korean chef experimenting with hotteok. At Mokbar, in New York, Esther Choi fills hers with pork belly. Sammy Pak has sold one with ham and cheese at his pop-up, Sammy's, in Oakland, California. Frankseoul, a South Korean cafe chain that opened a Frisco, Texas, location in 2020, offers Nutella-filled hotteok. (Trader Joe's began selling its own "sweet cinnamon filled Korean pancakes" last year.)

Despite all that innovation, Jin.Joo Lee, 55, who writes Korean-food blog Kimchimari, said the dish feels more nostalgic to people of her generation, who grew up in the 1970s and '80s. For them, it's reminiscent of a time when there was little foreign influence on South Korean foods, as that country was under authoritarian rule.



Judy Joo prepares hotteok in her home on Jan. 28. Joo makes her pancakes with muscovado sugar, which she says creates a gooier interior. **HARRY MITCHELL/THE NEW YORK TIMES**



Chef Hoyoung Kim at Jua, his New York restaurant, on Dec. 22. Korean chefs living outside that country, like Kim, have served hotteok in their restaurants, putting their own spin on it. RACHEL VANNI/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Yet hotteok itself is a product of outside forces. It was brought to the country by Chinese immigrants in the late 19th century, as an adaptation of bing. The sweet variation became popular in the 1950s and 60s, when U.S. foreign aid after the Korean War introduced inexpensive wheat and sugar to the country. Hotteok was cheap to make and sell — convenient for a time when South Korea's economy was struggling.

Today's young Koreans may not have grown up with hotteok, Lee said. In fact, many food stalls that sold hotteok are now gone, as the government severely restricted street vendors during the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, claiming that the stalls made the city less walkable.

ss walkable. But recently, as those



young people have reached adulthood, many have rediscovered hotteok, she said. "It is making a comeback."

"With the popularity of K-dramas and K-pop, there is an interest in Korean food," said John Lie, a professor of sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. (Members of Korean pop band BTS recently posted online photos of themselves eating hotteok.) "Both the K-pop

stars and Korean drama stars, they are constantly

Kim's hotteok

has sugar on

the outside,

as a syrupy

dotted with

VANNI/THE

NEW YORK

nuts. RACHEL

coating

eating Korean food."
At Jua, a Korean tasting-menu restaurant in
New York, chef Hoyoung
Kim serves hotteok as the
final course, pan-fried to
order and lacquered with a
syrup made of muscovado.
He wanted to show that the
humble dish could be part
of a fine-dining experience.

"It's more than a street food," Kim, 36, said. "It's a Korean soul food."

Hotteok (sweet filled pancakes)

Total time: 45 minutes, plus 3 hours' rising **Makes:** 10 hotteok

For the dough:

1½ cups whole milk

2 tablespoons granulated sugar

1 packet (7 grams) instant yeast 1½ cups bread flour, plus more for dusting (see note)

1 1/2 cups bread flour, pl 1 cup sweet rice flour

1 ½ tablespoons cornstarch ½ teaspoon coarse kosher salt Vegetable oil, for greasing and frying

For the filling:

½ cup firmly packed muscovado or dark brown sugar ½ cup roasted unsalted peanuts, coarsely chopped 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon ¾ teaspoon coarse kosher salt

1. Make the dough: In a small saucepan over medium heat, heat the milk to about 105 degrees. (If you don't have a thermometer, heat the milk until it feels like a warm bath — hot but not scalding). Remove from heat, stir in the granulated sugar and yeast, and whisk until the sugar has dissolved. Let stand in a warm place for 3 to 5 minutes, or until bubbling, to activate the yeast.

2. In a large bowl, combine the bread flour, rice flour,

cornstarch and salt. Slowly stir in the warm milk mixture until a sticky dough forms. Grease your hands with a little oil to prevent sticking and shape the dough into a ball. Transfer the dough ball to another large bowl greased lightly with vegetable oil, and cover with a clean, damp kitchen towel. Let the dough rise in a warm place until doubled in size, 1½ to 2 hours. Punch it down, cover again and let it rise until doubled in size again, about 1½ hours more.

3. Meanwhile, make the filling: In a small bowl, mix together the muscovado sugar, peanuts, cinnamon and salt. Muscovado sugar has a tendency to clump — use your fingers to squish any clumps.

4. After the dough has risen a second time, dust a clean work surface with bread flour and turn the dough out onto it. Dust the top of the dough with some more flour and knead it a few times. Shape the dough into a fat, long log.
5. Cut the dough into 10 equal pieces, shape each piece into a ball, set on the floured work surface, and cover with a clean kitchen towel or plastic wrap. Dusting with flour as needed to prevent sticking, press a dough ball into a 4-inch-wide disk using your fingertips. Make sure the disk is uniformly thick so the finished pancake will be evenly filled

6. Put the disk in your hand and slightly cup it. Spoon 2 packed tablespoons of the filling into the center of the disk. Seal the disk closed by wrapping the dough around the filling and pinching the edges together at the top. Once sealed, reshape gently to form a ball, set with the seam-side down on the floured work surface and cover with a clean kitchen towel or plastic wrap. Repeat with the remaining dough balls and filling. (You may have some leftover filling. Sprinkle it on buttered toast or roti. Combine it with peeled, sliced apples and bake it into a pie or crumble.)

7. In a large nonstick skillet, heat 3 tablespoons oil over medium-high. Put 2 or 3 dough balls seam-side down in the skillet and immediately flatten them with a spatula to a diameter of about 4 inches. Reduce the heat to medium and fry the pancakes until golden brown and crisp on the bottom, 3 to 4 minutes. Flip them and cook until the other side is golden brown and the hotteok feel slightly springy to the touch. 3 to 4 minutes more.

8. Transfer the hotteok to a wire rack or paper towellined plate when done. Repeat with the remaining dough balls, wiping the skillet clean and adding fresh oil for each batch. Let the hotteok cool slightly before serving; it's easy to burn yourself in your haste to gobble these up, as the insides are hot and oozing. Any leftovers can be cooled completely and frozen in an airtight container for up to a month. Reheat in a 350-degree oven, and refry in a pan with a little oil to crisp them again.

Note: You can substitute all-purpose flour for bread flour, using 1 3/3 cups all-purpose flour.

using 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour. — Recipe from Judy Joo, adapted by Priya Krishna